

Turin shroud is as old as Christ — professors

Missing British yachtsman sails home

Finn jumps to first world wife-carrying

Clinton meets with Polish president

Syria: U.S.-Israel talks 'real test'

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Monday urged U.S. President Bill Clinton to press hardline Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in talks this week not to reject the "land-for-peace" principle underpinning the Middle East peace process. Official Syrian media said talks between the two men in Washington Tuesday would be a "real test" for the United States. "It would be very helpful that the Clinton administration inform Mr. Netanyahu officially that any rejection of the basis and principles of the peace process... does not mean that Israel was only retracting from the peace process, but also destroying it," the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Baath said.

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Russia gives ultimatum to Chechens

MOSCOW (R) — The commander of Russian forces in Chechnya gave the leader of the region's separatist rebels a 24-hour deadline Monday to hand over all their prisoners, ITAR-TASS news agency said. In a further sign of mounting tension between the two sides that has strained last month's shaky ceasefire agreement, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov said he would "take appropriate measures" if the rebels did not hand over all their prisoners by 6 p.m. (1400 GMT) Tuesday. Gen. Tikhomirov, who had earlier denied a report he was about to be transferred from Chechnya, said Mr. Yandarbiyev's representatives must make concrete proposals by 11 a.m. (0700 GMT) Tuesday. The TASS report from Chechnya did not specify what steps he would take if the separatists failed to comply. The number of prisoners held is unclear but some reports have put the figure at something over 1,000 on either side.

Man on rampage hurts 9 in U.K. school

LONDON (R) — A man wielding a machete attacked six children, a woman teacher and two other adults at a primary school in the central England city of Wolverhampton, police said Monday. Three adults and four children who were stabbed at St. Luke's Church of England Infants School were being treated at a local hospital. An ambulance spokeswoman said one child had severe lacerations to the right arm and the others, including the teacher, had stab wounds to the face and neck. A doctor at New Cross hospital in Wolverhampton told Reuters one child and the teacher had severe injuries to the head but they were not thought to be life-threatening. "The man wielding the axe or machete is still at large," a spokesman for the West Midlands Police said.

Suharto in Germany for medical treatment

BAD OEYNHAUSEN, Germany (AFP) — President Suharto, who has ruled Indonesia for almost three decades, arrived in this northwest German spa town Monday for three days of treatment for a failing heart and other health problems. Indonesian Minister for Research and Technology Bacharudin Jusuf Habibie confirmed that the president was undergoing treatment at Bad Oeynhausen.

Clinton meets with Polish president

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton promised Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski Monday that he would press for NATO expansion but refused to commit to an accelerated timetable. "Make no mistake about it, NATO will expand," Mr. Clinton said ahead of the meeting at the White House. But he stressed that the gradual approach to enlarging the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) would continue apace. "The process will continue and will bear fruit in the way we have done it," he said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

Kabariti: Increase in bread prices will not affect citizens Opposition deputies urge alternative solutions to budget deficit problem

By Tareq Momani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti stressed Monday that plans to lift subsidies from wheat will not lead to an increase in the prices of bread for citizens who will be receiving annual payments to offset the increase in the cost. Mr. Kabariti told an informal meeting of members of the Lower House of Parliament that the government is working out a plan under which every Jordanian citizen will receive an yearly payment to offset the increase in the price of bread. "Every Jordanian citizen will receive a JD15,260 every year to offset differ-

ences between the current and new prices of bread to ensure that no one will be affected," Mr. Kabariti told Parliament members who called the meeting to discuss the government plans to lift subsidies from wheat and its impact on citizens. "By providing the annual subsidy to Jordanians, the government will be paying a total of JD64 million from the state treasury," adding that the decision in this matter was based on a careful study, which also recommended that the government offer bread free of charge to every needy groups registered with the National Aid Fund. Mr. Kabariti's statement came one day after a new coalition of nine opposition

parties warned the government of "public disorder" if it raised the prices of bread. The parties, citing the riots which erupted in Ma'an in 1989 when the government attempted to raise the prices of fuel, said that the people's reaction would be unpredictable if prices were actually increased. "Nobody can predict or control people's acts when they feel that they will starve," a spokesman for the coalition said Sunday. But the prime minister said people will not be paying more for bread. Once the cash subsidy is distributed to citizens, he said, the prices of bread will be floated and sold at the rate of 250 fils per kilogramme. The annual payment to the

people will offset the increase in the price, he said. "The government is committed to paying the cash subsidies for the bread even when the actual bread prices have dropped," according to Mr. Kabariti. "We believe that there has been a waste of much of the subsidies for bread so far because the subsidy used to benefit tourists, guest workers, hotels and others," he said. According to government estimates, the country hosts 400,000 non-Jordanians and received 1.2 million tourists last year. "This government is dealing with this sensitive issue with all responsibility and it realises that if the present

(Continued on page 7)

'Israeli army ready and waiting to quit Hebron'

HEBRON, West Bank (AFP) — The Israeli army is ready to withdraw from the West Bank town of Hebron as soon as the government decides it, West Bank Commander Gaby Ophir said Monday. "The army is ready to implement at any time a decision at the political level on its redeployment in Hebron," General Ophir told state radio. Hebron is the only West Bank town still under Israeli occupation. Under the autonomy accord, the Israeli army was to pull out of most of the town by March 28. But the redeployment was postponed after a wave of

Islamic suicide bombings in Israel, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says he is still debating what to do next. Gen. Ophir's comments came as Mr. Netanyahu was to head to Washington, where U.S. officials see a Hebron pullback as a key test of the new right-wing leader's commitment to peace. The general also warned Palestinians against carrying out recent threats to launch a new intifada or uprising against Israeli occupation. "We will not tolerate that the Jews of Hebron cannot go freely in the Tomb of the Patriarchs or to their place of

work," he said. The Tomb of the Patriarchs is holy to Jews and Muslims alike. Some 400 militant Jewish settlers live in the heart of Hebron, surrounded by 120,000 Palestinian inhabitants. Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe warned Friday that the patience of Arab inhabitants was at "breaking point" because of the delayed redeployment. Mr. Netanyahu has hinted he may decide on a smaller-scale pullback than that set out in the autonomy accord, expanding the Jewish-controlled areas of the town.

But Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath warned Sunday: "We are not ready to negotiate what has already been signed." Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers who stopped a car near the West Bank flashpoint of Hebron beat two Palestinian occupants so severely as they required hospital treatment in Israel, witnesses said Monday. They said troops struck Adnan Kawasme, 25, and his brother Anwar, 22, repeatedly on the head and body after searching their car Sunday night at a checkpoint beside the settlement of Kiryat Arba, a Jewish militant stronghold.

Netanyahu leaves for U.S. to discuss peace policies

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu left Monday for his first trip to Washington in hopes of winning President Bill Clinton's support for his tough stance in Mideast peace talks. Mr. Netanyahu will also direct his visit at Wall Street, lobbying for investment after his cabinet approved an austerity plan, the new prime minister says will revitalise Israel's economy. News reports said Monday that Mr. Netanyahu would tell Mr. Clinton he planned to meet with Yasser Arafat following a meeting between the Palestinian leader and Foreign Minister David Levy. Mr. Netanyahu has said he would meet with Mr. Arafat only if he deemed it necessary to Israel's security. Palestinians have complained about a lack of communication with the new government. In gesture to the Palestinians, Mr. Netanyahu is also expected to propose a significant easing of the four-month closure of the West Bank and Gaza that has devastated the Palestinian economy, reports said. However, Mr. Netanyahu told army radio he does not intend to raise the issue of the Israeli's much-delayed pullout from Hebron, the last West Bank town under

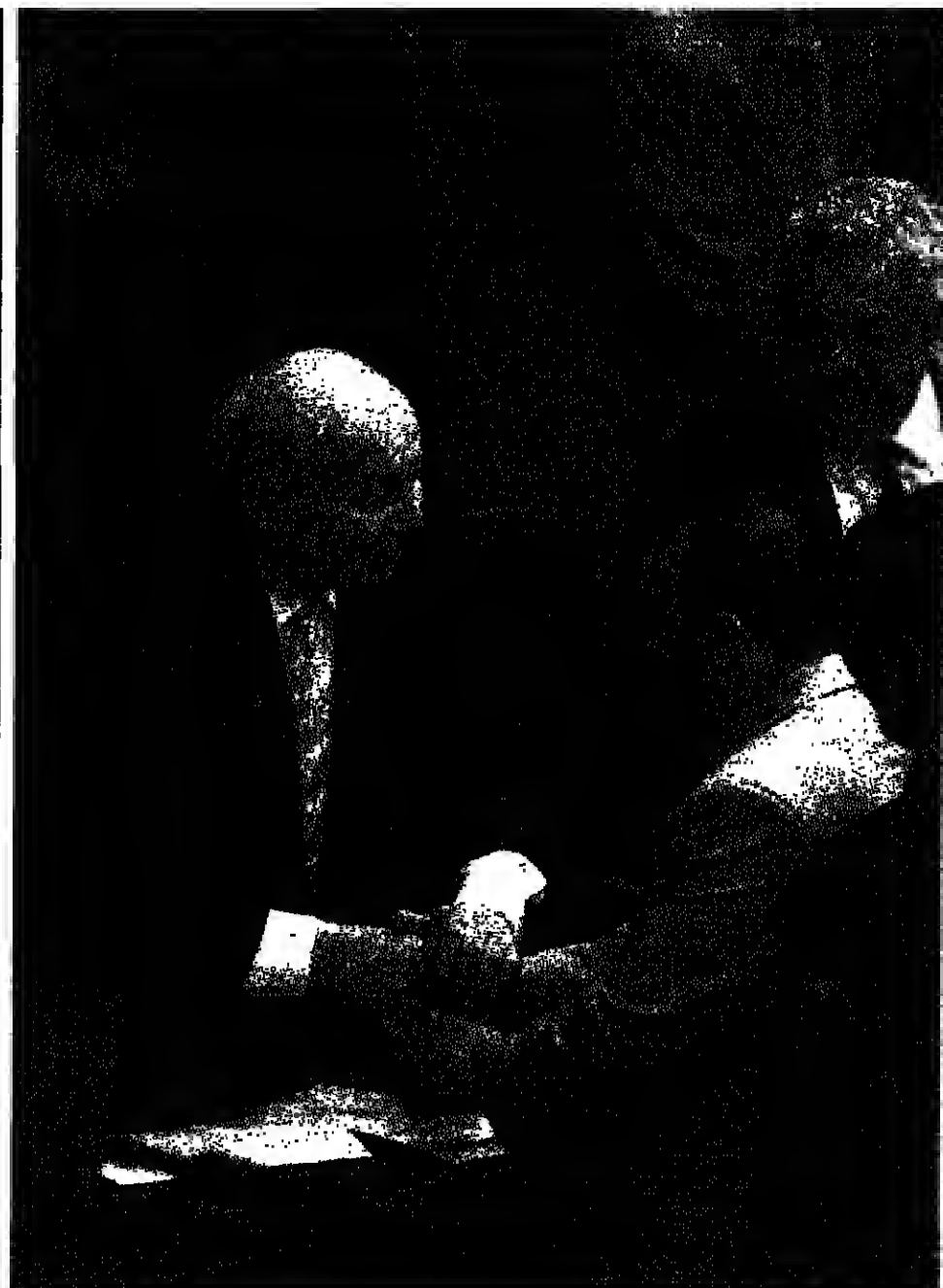
Israeli occupation. "I am considering the issue and I intend first of all to discuss the issue with my colleagues in the cabinet," Mr. Netanyahu told army radio. "I think a hasty move in Hebron or anywhere else can lead to violence and a deterioration of security that will hurt both the peace process and the Palestinians." As opposition leader in the previous parliament, Netanyahu opposed the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy agreement that stipulated a withdrawal from Hebron, home to 450 Jewish settlers and 94,000 Arabs. He has been vague on the issue since his May 29 election. The prime minister and his wife Sarah turned and waved as they boarded an Israeli Air Force plane Monday along with their two young sons. The prime minister will also bring new information linking Syria to various terrorist groups, Israel's Channel 2 television said Sunday. Mr. Netanyahu has criticised Damascus for harbouring terrorist groups and for supporting Hizbollah guerrillas fighting Israel in South Lebanon.

(Continued on page 7)

Muasher stresses need for ministry-JPA cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information Marwan Muasher Monday stressed the need for cooperation between the Ministry of Information and Jordan Press Association (JPA), pointing out that turning Jordan Radio and Television Corporation and Jordan News Agency, Petra, into independent institutions aims to give much more freedom to the official media apparatus. Dr. Muasher said during a visit to JPA that the government considered giving the Jordanian press more freedom. The minister said during the last meeting with the prime minister, the government studied reformulating

JPA's law, pointing the government's willingness to discuss the new draft law with JPA council members. "The government considers any amendment to the Press and Publications Law. Although a journalist should express his views freely he is responsible for what he writes," the minister said. The newly-elected JPA President Seif Al Sherif said: "We welcome this visit which is a sign of democracy. It highlights the need to enhance relations between the ministry and JPA to better serve journalism in the Kingdom."



Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan (left) is congratulated by his Islam-based Welfare Party MPs Monday after winning a narrow confidence vote in parliament in Ankara (Reuters photo)

Turkey Islamists crown marathon bid for power

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan on Monday crowned his marathon bid for power with a narrow confidence vote win that shattered secular Turkey's decades-old taboo against political Islam. Parliament voted narrowly to approve Mr. Erbakan's coalition with the pro-Western conservative True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, ratifying Islamist control of the government for the first time in the 73 years of the Turkish republic. "A new era has begun in Turkey," Mr. Erbakan told parliament after the result. "We will work day and night with the spirit of worship." The moment of triumph for Mr. Erbakan, 70, and his Welfare Party followed months of deft political manoeuvres that has forced the secularist elite to cede the Islamists a permanent place at Turkey's political table. Forced into opposition after narrow victory in general polls last December, Welfare threw up legal and political roadblocks that

brought the mainstream parties to their knees. The final step was last month's humiliation of Ms. Ciller, forced by Mr. Erbakan to accept a junior coalition role with a party she had once vilified for "sinking the country into darkness." "This result began with the common sense of the voters in December... and it ends six months of political crisis after crisis," the victorious Mr. Erbakan — widely known by the Muslim honourific *hoja*, or teacher — told the parliament. Turkey's financial markets and business community, previously wary of the Islamists, have welcomed an end to the political uncertainty. The Istanbul Stock Market index closed 1.37 per cent higher at a new all-time high of 73,531.30 shortly after the vote. Mr. Erbakan, junior coalition partner in three governments in the 1970s, has lately cast aside much of his radical rhetoric and concentrated instead on assembling the

building blocks of a future Islam-based state. He has disavowed pledges to pull Turkey from the Western alliance, abolish interest payments, introduce a pan-Islamic currency and kill an unpopular military pact with Israel. However, political analysts say this moderation is designed to defuse alarm among the secularists, in particular the army, and allow Welfare to get on with the more immediate task of attracting fresh voters to its vision. Support for Welfare has leaped as the ruling elite turned a blind eye to the economic and spiritual needs of the masses. Scattered local polls in June saw Welfare win 33.5 per cent of the vote, up sharply from 21 per cent in December's general election. "They are seeking popular support by solving the daily problems of the poor, of civil servants, the unemployed, workers and farmers," commentator Sami Kohen said after the vote.

Sensational revelations at publisher's trial Intelligence officers say accused was on CID payroll

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sensational revelations were made Monday at the trial of a weekly newspaper publisher who continues to plead innocent to the charges of conscious possession of counterfeit bank notes with intelligence officers saying that the accused was on their payroll. Three Central Intelligence Department (CID) officers, including Major General Samih Bino, who testified at the trial of Nayef Tawara at the State Security Court, said that Mr. Tawara

had for years provided the CID with information in return for a JD50 monthly payment. But the relationship with Mr. Tawara, they said, was terminated on Dec. 31, 1995 because he was no longer following orders. The lawyer of Mr. Tawara, publisher of Al Bilad weekly tabloid, told the court that his client would not add to his original defence statement presented to the court at earlier sessions. The defence pleaded that Mr. Tawara

was not consciously in possession of the forged money. Mr. Tawara was arrested in possession of \$100,000 in forged U.S. bank notes placed in an envelope in his car, according to the charge filed by the prosecutor general. The accused claimed that an Iraqi named Jassem Obaidi met him in Wasfi Al Tell Street and handed him the envelope. He insists, however, that he was not aware of the contents of the envelope and that he was heading to a police station

to report the encounter to it when he was arrested. One of the prosecution's witnesses, Major Hamad Thalji, said he examined the cash which was found in the possession of the accused and discovered that it was forged. At Monday's session, the prosecutor general presented his final summation, demanding that the court find the accused guilty as charged and President of the Court Judge Yusuf Faouri set July 18 as the date for passing the verdict.

Legal sources say that Mr. Tawara's main defence at the trial is that he was not aware of the contents of the envelope which contained the forged money and his lawyer is thus demanding that his client be found innocent because the charge is conscious possession of forged money. If Mr. Tawara is acquitted from this charge, he is expected to stand trial in a criminal court on charges of receiving payment from foreigners.

Afghani premier warns Taliban of counterattack

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's new premier, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has issued a stern warning to the Taliban besieging Kabul telling his cabinet government troops would soon counterattack, officials said Monday.

Chairing his first cabinet meeting since taking office, Mr. Hekmatyar told defence ministry officials at Sunday's cabinet session that the bloody siege of Kabul could not continue and that government forces would soon strike at the militants in the southern province of Logar.

"Rockets are indiscriminately hitting Kabul and it's crucial for the people that an end should be put to this situation," he told officials of the ministry which his intelligence chief Wahidullah Sabawoon now runs.

"Only the mujahedeen of Logar will be able to push the Taliban out but we should help the people of Logar attain the freedom of their province," he told the defence cadres according to Kabul Radio.

Logar, a strategic province which lies due south of the embattled Afghan capital, was a former heartland of Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami before the Taliban rose to power and captured the area last year.

It lies directly behind the main Taliban base of Charsayab, which is 25 kilometres south of here and which was until 1994 Hekmatyar's base, and its seizure by the government would deal a serious blow to the Taliban, analysts here said.

The government launched an attack against the Taliban in two pockets of neighbouring Wardak province in April, but the attempt was repelled by the militants who retain full control of both Wardak and Logar.

Mr. Hekmatyar took over 12 days ago as head of a new coalition government under a landmark accord signed between him and President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The union between Mr. Rabbani's shaky coalition government and Mr. Hekmatyar was seen by many analysts here as being mainly aimed at forming a joint military alliance against the Taliban.

The new government has however denied the claim, saying the alliance was part of an "axis for peace" and was not aimed at continuing the fighting which has wracked Afghanistan for nearly 17 years.

Mr. Hekmatyar's strong comments on possible future military operations around Kabul came just two days after eight people were killed and 26 others injured in a Taliban shell attack on Kabul, officials said.

The bombardment came after the premier's arrival in Kabul last month, his first time here in 16 years, was marked by the heaviest and most murderous rocket and shell barrage of the city for more than a year.

At least 64 civilians were killed and 140 wounded during a day of salvos which officials here said were fired by the Taliban in a bid to prevent Mr. Hekmatyar's arrival and his inauguration as prime minister. During Sunday's cabinet meeting, Hekmatyar told his six new ministers sworn in on Saturday as well as 20 caretaker minis-

ters that government expenditure must be cut.

He said the vast and unwieldy civil service should be trimmed back to "avoid over-employment and to economise on expenditure," Kabul radio said.

The prime minister ordered the setting up of a commission to examine cutting costs in the state media sector by "reconsidering the publication of some necessary and unnecessary periodicals," it said.

His comments came two days after he launched a ferocious attack on Kabul's tiny foreign press corps, accusing them of spreading "baseless propaganda" and "analysing" events "instead of reporting." Mr. Hekmatyar said that as guests in Kabul, foreign journalists should not be allowed to "undermine government programmes."



YITZHAK MORDECHAI MEETS LAHAD: Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai embraces Antoine Lahad, (Right), commander of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA), in Tel Aviv Monday. The SLA, Israel's client militia, patrols the Jewish state's narrow south Lebanon occupation zone (Reuters photo)

Arafat under fire for West Bank land grab

JENID, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinians demonstrated Monday against President Yasser Arafat's plans to build a new home in the north of the West Bank on land which they farm.

Some 50 villagers, mainly women, from Jenid near Nablus set up tents on the disputed land and hung banners which read "Yes to democracy, no to personal power."

They said Nablus municipality planned to seize five hectares of common land, farmed by all Jenid villagers, to build an official residence for Mr. Arafat.

So far they have kept town hall surveys and labourers at bay, mainly by throwing stones. Nablus Mayor Basam Shakaa has resorted to

sending workers under the protection of crack Palestinian marines.

Khaled Jaidi, a spokesman for the village, said inhabitants were now seeking legal action to prevent Mr. Arafat's home being built.

"We demand that work stops until the court makes a decision," he said.

Nablus town hall argues it has the right to dispose of what was considered state land under Jordan's administration of the West Bank before the Israeli occupation of 1967.

Jenid is perched on a hill-top overlooking Nablus. Both were handed over to Palestinian control at the end of last year under the Israeli-PLO autonomy accords.

Palestinian support for peace at all-time high, poll shows

NABLUS, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinian support for the peace process is at its highest point since the launch of autonomy in 1994 despite the election of a rightwing hard-line government in Israel, a poll showed Monday.

A total of 81.1 per cent of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip questioned by the Centre for Palestine Research and Studies support the continuation of the peace process with Israel and just 12.5 per cent oppose it.

Support for peace has risen since a similar poll in March — before the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel — when 78 per cent backed the continuation of peace talks and 16

per cent opposed it.

In the March poll, almost half of Palestinians said the peace process stood a better chance under the Labour Party than under Mr. Netanyahu's rightwing Likud with just five per cent arguing the opposite.

But their worst fears appear not to have been realised so far. One third saw no change for peace prospects after Likud's May 29 election victory, one third was optimistic and the other third pessimistic.

Nevertheless, Palestinians are split over whether talks on a final settlement with Israel can resolve the thorny problems of Jerusalem, refugees, borders and settlements.

Forty-eight per cent said the problems were insurmount-

able, whereas 44 per cent believed they could be solved.

Mr. Netanyahu has ruled out any discussions on the future of Jerusalem and the return of refugees to the territories, and rejected the creation of a Palestinian state. The Palestinians want East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel in 1967, as the capital of a future state.

Most of the Palestinians questioned said Yasser Arafat's Palestinian National Authority could not depend on Arab countries to support them in obtaining their demands.

Asked about the performance of the Palestinian authority, 56 per cent said they trusted it to improve their lives while 21 said the contrary.

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Saudi royals enjoyed lush life during Phoenix stay

PHOENIX (AP) — She arrived here nearly two years ago under a tightly woven veil of secrecy and left two weeks ago just as quietly.

But in her royal wake, Al Anod Bint Musaid Ben Jiluwi, otherwise known as the wife of the Saudi Arabian king, left behind tales of rented Persian rugs, \$100 tips and shopping sprees of super bowl proportion.

King Fahd's wife — only Westerners incorrectly refer to her as the queen — arrived in Phoenix in October 1994 for spine surgery at Barrow Neurological Institute.

Her recovery at Barrow was expected to take only three weeks but lasted four months because of her frail health and the fact that her bones didn't knit well.

After her release, she stayed around for months, shopping, eating out, watching movies and strolling through her affluent Paradise Valley neighbour-

hood, said the businesses' that catered to her and her entourage, which at times was as large as 300.

The king's wife left June 23 for Los Angeles, where she will stay awhile before heading home.

Her visit to Barrow came with only two days notice. Over one weekend, representatives of the Saudi embassy flew in and prepared the centre's entire seventh floor.

Patients were moved, rooms were repainted and Persian carpets hauled in. Nurses went to etiquette classes. A chef from the Arizona Biltmore Resort was hired to prepare meals. A satellite dish was installed to receive communications from Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Volker Sonntag, the neurological surgeon chosen by the royal couple, remembers walking down a corridor filled with flowers from heads of state.

Within an hour or two, he had bought more champagne. "Walking down the hallway was like you were walking in a

"rose garden," he said.

A week after the king's wife left Barrow, the Saudis dispensed envelopes with money to the hospital staff, even the janitors, who had cared for her. Employees, however, were told to return the gratuities.

The royal treatment went beyond hospital corridors. While the king's wife was recuperating in Barrow, the royal family started renting floors of rooms at the Biltmore and the Phoenixian. Employees said they remembered the Saudis rewarding generously for good service — even \$100 tips for bottled-water deliveries.

A 38-year-old Phoenix woman said she was eating alone at a Scottsdale restaurant when a Saudi from the entourage introduced himself by buying a \$100 bottle of champagne.

Within an hour or two, he had bought more champagne. "Walking down the hallway was like you were walking in a

that was colder.

Once the king's wife was released from Barrow, the family set up residence in Paradise Valley, renting six homes for \$30,000 to \$50,000 each, said neighbours and a real-estate agent. They threw elaborate birthday parties with clowns and ponies. Children from nearby homes were invited and given \$30 electronic games as party favours.

Saudi limos often were seen parked outside Saks Fifth Avenue and one Saudi woman reportedly paid cash for \$30,000 worth of jewellery at a Scottsdale jewelry store.

Despite the shopping spree, Frank Simone, owner of Premier Limo, said the Saudis were too savvy to indulge in any whimsical purchases.

The family, which at one time had as many as 58 of Premier's cars standing by, preferred the anonymity of sedans to stretch limos. But they wanted the cars at a good price, he said.

Children re environment

Over 200 children from different districts in the Kingdom Monday posed for portraits and short stories focusing on the environment in a ceremony held for the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Masheeni Theatre Club, Lawrenceville.

The children were chosen from over 3,300 participants who took part in a nation-wide competition, which was held in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Jordan.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00	Ins The Happy Professor
15:15	Captain Planet
15:30	Hot Shots
16:00	Bob Morrison Show
16:30	ALF
17:00	News Flash
17:02	Sciences Cartoon
17:15	La Vie Devant Moi
17:30	Pyramide
18:00	Medical Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
19:00	Le Journal
19:15	Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Blossom
20:00	Documentary
20:30	Encounter
21:10	Star Trek
22:00	News In English
22:30	Human Target
23:15	Hawaii 5-0
23:45	My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

03:58	Fajr
05:32	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:12	Asr
19:49	Maghrib
21:23	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweethill, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church
Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.	Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366	Anglican Church Tel. 652826.	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.	German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457	The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.	Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.	The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.
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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Relative warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly above average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.
Min/Max temp.

Amman	21/34
Aqaba	26/40
Deserts	19/37
Jordan Valley	23/39
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity	
readings: Amman 42 per cent,	
Aqaba 35 per cent.	

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Fakher Belbeisi663412

Dr. Mazen Al Nubali830435

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er790405

Dr. Fayed Dabbas759155

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asema pharmacy637055

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Nalroukh pharmacy623672

Najib pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu281484

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mazen Al Safarini 985832

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Dept661111

Civil Defence Immediate Resc-

cue630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police 192	621111,
637777	
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Com-	
plaints	897467
Amman Municipality Com-	
plaints	787111
Telephone Information (direc-	
tory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information 08-	
53200	
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-	
53200	

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre

813813/32

Khalil Maternity644281/6

Akileh Maternity642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

642362

Malthas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 661263/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6

Italian, Al-Mubajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir775111/26

Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/50

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart

and Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323

Zarqa National Hospital

(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

(09)990990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

04:30 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur,

New Delhi (RJ)

08:00Damascus (RJ)

08:15Sanaa (RJ)

10:15Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

10:20Beirut (RJ)

10:35Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

10:50Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

14:05New York (RJ)

17:20Cairo (RJ)

17:30London (RJ)

17:40Frankfurt (RJ)

18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights

09:15Cairo (MS)

13:40Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:00Riyadh (SV)

14:00Munich, Aleppo (YP)

14:10Frankfurt (YP)

16:00Rome (AZ)

16:30Dubai (EK)

19:35Amsterdam (KL)

20:20London (BA)

20:20Aden (Y)

21:10Beirut (ME)

22:00Tel Aviv (LY)

00:55Bucharest (RO)

03:00Kuwait (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50Aqaba (RW)

19:45Tel Aviv (RW)

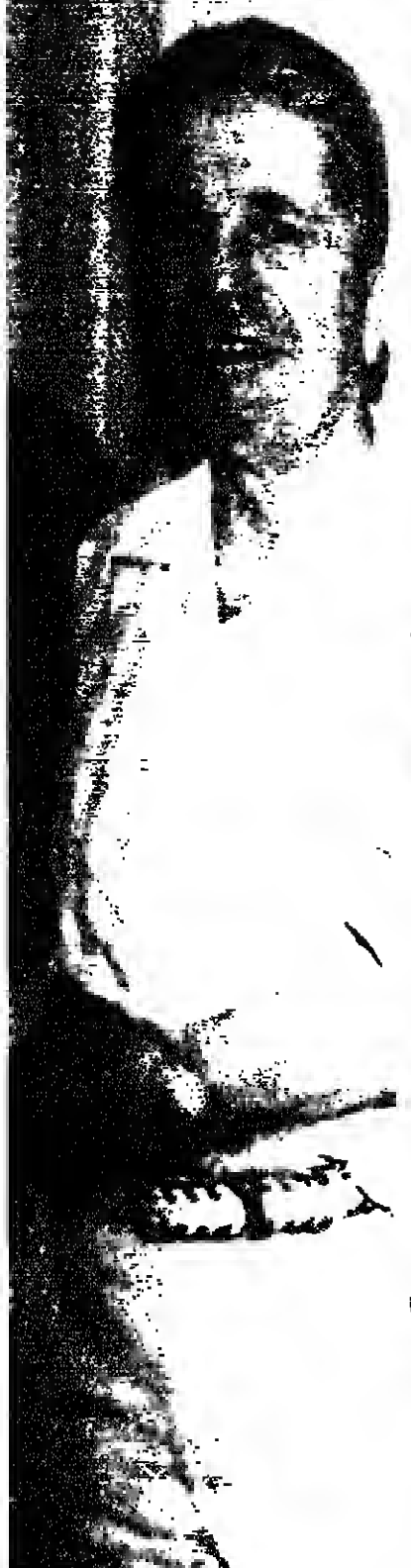
DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:35Beirut (RJ)

09:30 Amsterdam, New York

(RJ)



Minister of Transport Nasser Al Lawzi (centre) and IATA Director General Pierre Jeannot Monday sign an agreement to open a regional office for IATA in Amman (Petra photo)

IATA opens regional office in Amman Initial study for Aqaba regional airport completed, awaits approval

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An American firm has completed an initial study on building a regional airport in Aqaba and the study has now been referred to the American, Jordanian and Israeli governments, the main parties concerned with the project, to examine and give final approval of the plan, Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi announced Monday.

Addressing a press conference following the conclusion of an agreement on the opening of a regional office in Amman for the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the minister said that officials from the three countries have conducted a series of meetings to discuss the air-

port project and have given their tentative approval of the plan.

The minister said that the decision by the Geneva-based IATA to open a regional office in Amman "reflects the confidence it has in the Kingdom." "This agreement is considered to be a seal of approval of Jordan as a country of peace and stability and a significant centre for civil aviation," added Mr. Lawzi.

IATA Director General Pierre Jeannot, who signed the agreement with Mr. Lawzi, told the press conference that "Amman now takes its place with Singapore and Brussels as a regional headquarters of IATA."

"We feel we are playing a small part in a long-awaited

process of peace in this region, a process which leads to greater stability, economic development and greater prosperity for all," added Mr. Jeannot.

"Through this office we want to ensure that IATA will be ready to serve and to meet the expanding needs of its members," he said.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi told the press conference that the government is going ahead with the privatisation of the national carrier.

RJ officials said that the IATA office would organise training programmes for pilots and provide other technical advice to IATA member countries in the region.

Agreement on Aqaba power plant expected this year Jordan-Qatar committee concludes talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A final agreement on the construction of a plant for generating electricity in Aqaba using gas from Qatar is expected towards the end of 1996 upon the completion of the feasibility studies, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Ben Jassem Al Thani said Monday.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Qatari minister said an American firm, Enron Corp., which has been contracted to carry out the study and set up the plant, concluded an agreement with Jordan and Israel to set up a gas-operated electricity plant in Aqaba to

supply the two countries with electricity.

But the minister denied earlier reports about an agreement allowing Israel to purchase gas directly from Qatar.

Sheikh Hamad said that the project, which became possible due to the peace process, is expected to help Jordan, Israel and the Gulf countries cooperate in energy-related fields.

According to U.S. Enron Corp. the plant in Aqaba would cost \$300 million and would handle up to 2.5 million tonnes of gas. It could sell electricity to Jordan, Israel and the Palestine self rule areas and also mar-

ket liquefied natural gas to the three countries.

Sheikh Hamad referred to a new agreement with Jordan signed Sunday to promote economic and other relations and said that it is bound to further boost bilateral ties.

The Higher Jordanian Qatari committee, which concluded two days of talks in Amman, pledged to take the appropriate measures to bolster relations in political, economic and social fields.

Referring to the results of the Israeli elections, he said Qatar hopes the new Israeli government would abide by the treaties and accords it has signed with the Pales-

tinians, stressing the commitment to establishing a comprehensive peace in the region.

"It is not in the interest of Israel to win the hostility of the Arab countries by reneging on its pledges and commitments," he said, adding that "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statements so far are discouraging."

On Qatar's relations with Bahrain, he said: "the border disputes between the two countries are now being examined by the International Court of Justice at the Hague. But Qatar welcomes any mediation from Saudi Arabia or other

sister countries to settle the issue."

He said that Qatar views with deep pain the continued suffering of the Iraqi people and has been providing humanitarian aid to them, adding that "the embargo on Iraq is hurting us all and Qatar will never abandon Iraq which constitutes an important pillar of the Arab Nation."

Sheikh Hamad said his country seeks to help Iraq accept and implement U.N. resolutions so as to end the embargo.

Israeli embassy to improve visa application process after receiving complaints about delays

By Amy Henderson
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli Embassy will on Wednesday add four employees to its consulate section which will move to a new hall in its current location to help hasten the visa application process, an embassy spokesman said Monday.

The decision to bring extra staff, said embassy spokesperson Shalom Tourgeman, follows complaints from Jordanian applicants that they must queue for long periods of time before they can apply for a visa and that the processing of the applications may take weeks rather than days.

"In June, summer holidays began, and we had more people wanting to travel to Israel to visit relatives," said Mr. Tourgeman. "In the spring, we didn't foresee this demand."

Long queues behind the Forte Grand Hotel are not an uncommon sight these days. Jordanians this summer began lining up as early as 3 and 4 a.m. to apply for a visa,

and often never make it through the consulate's doors.

According to Mr. Tourgeman, 300 to 400 people arrive daily to apply for visas, but "the embassy" can address only 100-200 people each day.

"Many of these come with more than one passport and apply for their entire family," he said. "At the same time, people have to understand that we are operating from a hotel and we don't have enough employees."

The embassy currently has a staff of two handling visa applications, which is insufficient to meet demand, he said. As of Wednesday, the embassy will employ four additional Arabic-speaking clerks and move the section that handles visas to the lower level of the Forte Grand nightclub, Jugglers, to accommodate more people, he said.

Additionally, said Mr. Tourgeman, getting clearance from the Israeli interior ministry is also a slow process. As of Monday, he

said, the embassy was waiting for approval from Israel for between 500 and 600 applications.

The length of time that it now takes to process an application is also contingent upon whether or not a passport holder had a previous Israeli visa, he said.

"People who have applied before and gotten (a visa) once before can get (a visa) on the same day they apply," he said. "If the applicant is new, it should take three to five days, but with the extra demand of the summer, it is taking from one to two weeks."

Mr. Tourgeman denied that it was an unwillingness on behalf of Israel to issue visas that was complicating and prolonging the whole procedure.

"(Issuing visas) is part of (the embassy's) job," he said. "It is in our best interest that people come to Israel. To the contrary, we very much want them to come and we do want to provide a good service. We are trying our best to accommodate everyone."

Last week, Israeli ambas-

sador Shimon Shamir criticised in a statement to Reuters the lengthy procedure of issuing visas, saying that the delay was in violation of the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty which stipulates that Israel should grant or refuse visas to Jordanians within five days of application.

"This question is turning into a troublesome problem in relations between the two countries," he said. "Jordanians are complaining of difficulties that they encounter when they apply for visas, while on the other hand, 150,000 Israelis visited Jordan last year."

According to Mr. Tourgeman, the Israeli embassy has issued 17,500 visas to Jordanians since Aug. 14, 1995. Fourteen thousand of those have been issued the first six months of this year. He could not say how many applicants the embassy had since that date.

"We have heard people say that we refuse a lot of applicants," he said, "but this isn't true. We refuse, maybe, only one per cent of applicants."

Mr. Tourgeman said that he hoped the problem would be further alleviated when the embassy moves to its permanent residence in Al Rabia later this year and more staff are employed.

Children receive awards for environment competition

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Over 200 children from different districts in the Kingdom Monday received awards for paintings, poems and short stories focusing on the environment to a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor at the Osama Masheehi Theatre in Jebel Luweibeh.

The children were chosen from over 3,300 participants who took part in a competition, which was organised in cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry in

Amman and promoted in Al Ra'i Arabic daily over eight consecutive weeks.

On behalf of Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ed Ben Zeid praised the young artists and awarded them the prizes which consist of different toys and items manufactured and donated by local private companies.

"These prizes are a gift from the private sector to the youth, and represent a tangible proof of our interest in their education and development," said Ahmad Boran, one of the organisers of the competition.

Dr. Boran stressed the importance of promoting a

debate on environmental issues among the youngsters and said that the best works presented in the competition will be gathered in a book to be published shortly.

"In awarding the prizes, the jury made sure that they were distributed uniformly among children from different geographic areas of the Kingdom," Dr. Boran said.

The ceremony was also attended by HRH Prince Firas Ben Ra'ed and Mahmoud Al Kayed, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Press Foundation.

Asmar elected JPA deputy president; council member resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — Helmi Al Asmar, editor of the Islamist weekly Al Sabeel, Monday became deputy president of the Jordan Press Association (JPA) council after making the only official bid to the post and receiving the support of all council members who attended the new council's first meeting since its election on Friday.

The first meeting of the JPA new council also had to review the resignation of Fakhri Abu Hammed, who, according to one of his colleagues, resigned in protest against the council's refusal to elect him as deputy president.

Mr. Abu Hammed, who was elected by acclamation to the council as representative of newspaper owners, was reportedly lobbying for the job but many journalists said they would oppose that because "he is not a journalist and was not elected by the general assembly because his nomination to the council was not contested."

The nine council seats are divided equally among journalists from the private sector, Jordan News Agency journalists and owners of newspapers. Only three people contested the election for the newspaper owners seats and they all won by acclamation.

"Mr. Abu Hammed is the publisher of a magazine, Fares, which is never published," said one journalist opposed to Mr. Abu Hammed's election to the council on

grounds that he is not a journalist.

"The JPA council president is a general manager of a newspaper. The least that can be done is ensure that his deputy is a journalist," said the JPA member who is opposed to the quota system in the JPA law.

Seif Al Sharif, general manager of Al Dustour daily, won the JPA's elections for president. Even though he was supported by other news organisations and the government, many journalist were opposed to his election saying there was a clear conflict of interest in his job as general manager and the duties which JPA president should shoulder.

The cabinet has just endorsed a new law governing the JPA and the controversial legislation proposes the elimination of the quota system.

In its meeting on Monday, the council also elected Khaleel Shobaki as chairman of the membership committee, Fouad Hussein as chairman of the public freedoms committee and Omar Shneikat as treasurer. Mahasen Imam, the only woman on the council, became chairman of the women's and social affairs committee and Abdul Mageed Abu Khaled was elected secretary.

Summer Music Classes

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation
From 13/7/1996 to 31/7/1996 (Except Thursdays and Fridays)

Discovering Music Aptitude

How many of us wish to learn music and how many adults have missed this chance and do not want for their children to miss it as well? The National Music Conservatory (NMC) is organizing a general course in Music oriented towards identifying the musical aptitude of participants, the musical instruments which suit them best and what they should expect of music and what music should expect of them. The course will include:

- Introduction to music instruments
- Auditory response to rhythm and tones
- Vocal interpretation of auditory perception
- Fundamentals of music reading skills
- Listening to a versatile repertoire

At the end of the course, participants will receive a written profile of their musical aptitude as well as guidelines that might be of use to them in their music study.

Total hours: 30 hours (two hours per day)
Fee: JD 40

Theory:

The Theory Examination of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM) will be held on Saturday, 2 November 1996. Upon passing this examination, participants will receive a certificate from the Board, recognized worldwide. To prepare for this examination, the NMC offers intensive and gradual classes in music theory.

Total hours: 16
Fee: JD 40

Performance:

Individual tutoring to play one of the following music instruments:

- oud - nay
- flute - clarinet - oboe - bassoon - saxophone
- violin - viola - cello - contrabass - guitar
- piano.

Total hours	Registration fee in JD	
	For all instruments	Piano only
4	50	60
6	80	80
8	100	110

For further information and reservation, until 11 July 1996:
The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Atiyat Building, Behind the Embassy of Kuwait, Jabel Amman.
Tel: 687620-fax: 687621- E-Mail: NMC_NHF@NETS.COM.JO

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAYS

Two plays entitled "Jinning" and "A Funny Night With the Child Sinned" (Arabic) respectively at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

"Is Poetry Over?" (Arabic) by Abdul Aziz Qasbi from Tinkah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITION

Exhibition of works by Sudanese artist Khaled Elshahawi entitled "The Time of Silence" at Darat Al Fann, Jabel Amman. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists (until July 31).

Arab ceramics exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre, until July 11.

Ceramics and paintings exhibition by Fayez Al-Sayid at the Royal Cultural Centre, until July 11.

Black and white paintings exhibition of works composed by half a century (1913-1966) entitled "Heureux Moments" at the French Cultural Centre, until July 11.

Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Sagra Street (Tel. 693141/2), until July 25.

Abstract (plastic) art by Arab women artists at Belkhat Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687981), until July 11.

Jordan, Ukraine hold talks on energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Monday expressed readiness to cooperate with the Ukraine in the exploration of oil and natural gas in the Kingdom.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hashem Dabbas, who met with visiting Ukrainian Minister of Energy Yevgeni Mikhailovic and his accompanying delegation, said Jordan was also willing to allow the National Petroleum Company and Ukrainian oil firms to carry out joint exploration and exploitation of natural gas and conduct research to utilise the country's oil shale in generating electricity.

Dr. Dabbas said that cooperation in these fields could be organised under a protocol to be reached through a meeting by a joint committee.

Mr. Mikhailovic said his country has more than 100 years of experience in extracting and refining petroleum in the former Soviet republics as well as in Iraq and Algeria.

S. Korean parliament told to prepare for unification

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's president Monday called on MPs to work for unification with Communist North Korea, as police threatened action against a student condolence message sent to North Korea on the anniversary of the death of Kim Il-Sung.

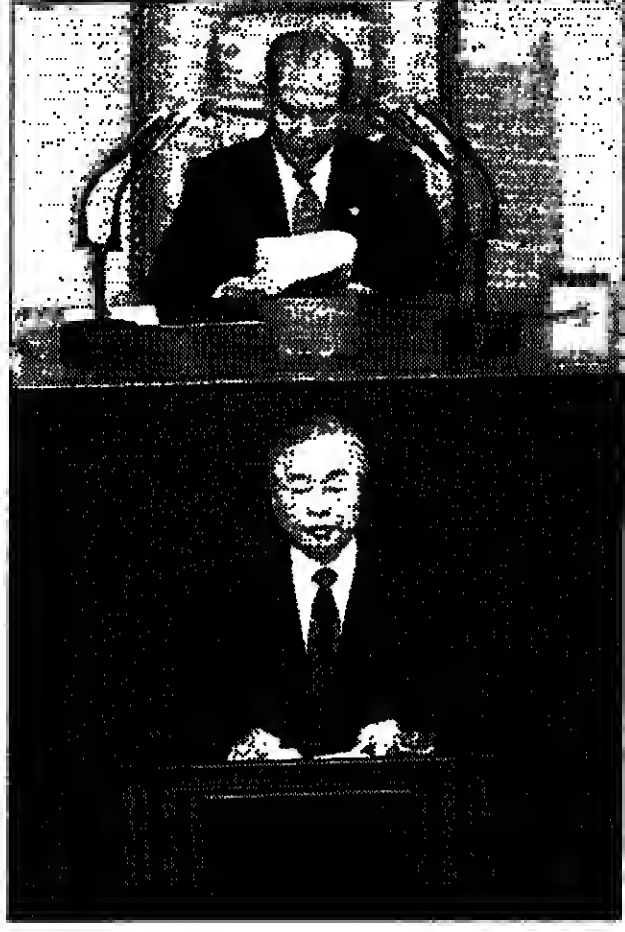
The president told the opening session of parliament that "preparatory work for the reunification of the Korean peninsula is your most important task."

His call for a reunification of the South and the North, came as North Korea, its economy on a downward slide, continued to appeal for international food aid.

It also came as North Korea staged mass mourning for the second anniversary of the death of its former leader. A memorial service in Pyongyang was attended by tens of thousands of people led by his eldest son and successor Kim Jong-Il.

But in Seoul, where there has been a renewed crackdown on leftists in the past two months, police said they were ready to investigate a condolence message sent North by the South's Hanchongryon (the Korea Federation of University Councils).

"The statement contains phrases in praise of Kim Il-Sung, in violation of Article 7," police said, referring to the draconian National Security Law which forbids



South Korean President Kim Young-Sam gives a speech at the opening ceremony of parliament at the National Assembly while behind him the newly-elected House Speaker Kim Soo-Han reads from the text of the speech in Seoul Monday (Reuters photo)

praise of the North on pain of imprisonment. North Korea has called Seoul's crackdown on students mourning Kim Il-Sung's death "unforgivable" and the main barrier to reunification talks.

In their message to Pyongyang the students were quoted as saying Kim Il-Sung, who died on July 8,

1994 from a heart attack, had "striven to create a new society in North Korea after liberation (from Japanese rule)."

The threatened police action came as a group of the South's university professors and college deans were reportedly preparing to ask government permission to hold meetings next month with counterparts in the North.

Yonhap New Agency said the Korea University Education Council planned to apply to the National Unification Ministry this week to "advance (the cause of) and minimise the confusion arising from unification."

"National unification is no longer a distant dream, but a matter of reality," Yonhap quoted the council as saying.

The plan for the conference involves 10 to 20 member delegations from each side meeting in a third country, a format that religious groups have used successfully to circumvent venue and security problems.

The goal of the meetings would be to promote North-South exchanges of staff and students, Yonhap said.

Though North-South trade is steady and Southern businessmen make frequent trips North, Seoul keeps a tight rein on academic contacts, and unauthorised student trips to the North can be punished with heavy jail terms.

Kim Jong-Il hailed as N. Korea again mourns 'great leader'

TOKYO (AFP) — Kim Jong-Il was upheld Monday as North Korea's new 'great leader' as he led tens of thousands of people in mourning on the second anniversary of the death of his father Kim Il-Sung.

But at the massive ceremony at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace, where the late leader's body is embalmed, his eldest son and heir-designate stood silent and grim-faced as eulogies were read, television showed.

Senior members of the ruling Workers' Party, the Korean People's Army and the state administration were on the main stage with Mr. Kim, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

There was little acknowledgement of the grave economic and social problems the country is battling.

One speaker told the crowd: "Comrade Kim Jong-Il will follow as our 'great leader' and this is our great happiness." North Korea Television showed.

"Under the Kim Jong-Il leadership, we will follow him and will faithfully carry out the great father's plan for revolution," added the elderly military officer.

North Korea Television supplied pictures of the event and speeches to the American channel CNN.

The 54-year-old Kim was given prominent coverage, although he said nothing and stood solemnly throughout.

Dressed in a grey cotton jacket and wearing his usual black spectacles, he appeared thin but in good health.

Mr. Kim stood at the centre of the main stage accompanied by the top military brass, with a huge smiling portrait of him nearby.

He hardly moved as he listened to speeches and watched the masses in front of the memorial — with several hundred soldiers in rows followed by tight ranks of civilians.

Two years after the death of Kim Il-Sung from a heart attack at the age of 82, his son has still not taken over the main posts of president and head of the ruling party.

The country faces economic collapse, according to Western experts, and also a food crisis and North Korean media said last week that the traditional two-year mourning period had been



North Korea's reclusive leader Kim Jong-Il stands on the balcony of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace for a memorial rally of tens of thousands of citizens in Pyongyang Monday on the second anniversary of the death of his father Kim Il-Sung. Kim Jong-Il has yet to inherit the key titles of state president and Workers' Party secretary general (Reuters photo)

extended for a year. But from the eulogies given to Kim Jong-Il at the event, the leadership of the hardline state gave a clear message to their people and the rest of the world that junior Kim was clearly in control.

"The Korean people more keenly feel that to have Comrade Kim Jong-Il as the great successor to the Juche Revolution and the eternal leader of the party and the people is a great fortune," said Choe Thae Bok, alternate politburo member and secretary of the Workers' Party Central Committee.

Another speaker said: "Kim Jong-Il will lead us economically and politically."

Radio Pyongyang's account of the ceremony declared: "President Kim Il-Sung's accomplishments are increasingly lightened with time because there is Comrade Kim Jong-Il. In other words, Comrade Kim Jong-Il is Kim Il-Sung."

The party daily, Rodong Sinmun, also hailed Kim Jong-Il and denied there was any "political vacuum or social instability."

"The great situation today has been attained because the follower is great," said

Clinton testifies in second Whitewater trial

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton testified for a second time behind closed White House doors Sunday, this time in the trial of two Arkansas bankers accused of diverting money to help pay his campaign debts in 1990.

The president, who is not accused of any crime, recorded his testimony on videotape in a special two-hour 20-minute court session held at the White House so as not to disrupt his official duties.

Judge Susan Wright, who came to Washington to preside over the session, ordered that his remarks remain secret until they are played for the jury in the Little Rock, Arkansas, trial, which was not expected until the week of July 15.

It was the second such appearance by Mr. Clinton, who in April testified for the defence in the trial of two of his partners in the failed Whitewater real estate venture, Jim and Susan McDougal, and then Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker.

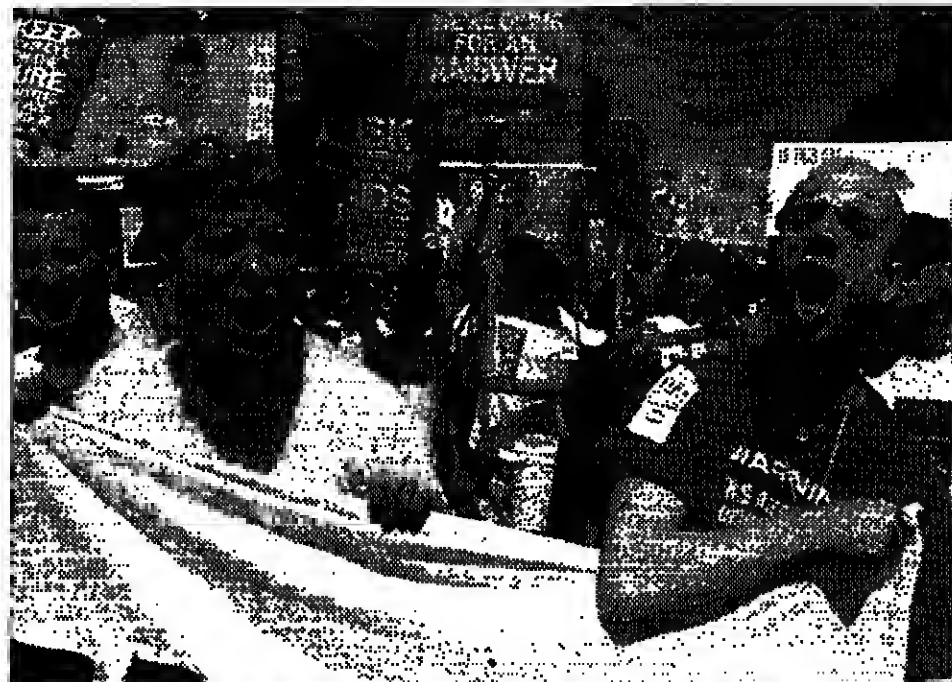
All three were convicted of conspiracy and fraud in May.

In the current trial, bankers Herby Branscum and Robert Hill were accused of hiding large withdrawals by Mr. Clinton's 1990 Arkansas gubernatorial campaign from regulators and of improperly diverting money from their bank to the campaign.

After the campaign both men were given prestigious state jobs, with Branscum named to the Arkansas Highway Commission and Mr. Hill reapointed to the State Banking Commission.

The White House released a brief statement after Mr. Clinton's testimony, saying only that the session began at 2 p.m. ed (1800 GMT), ended at 4:20 p.m. ed (2020 GMT), and took place in the White House map room.

"The president has consistently stated that he will provide the court with whatever information he can offer, and today's deposition fulfills that promise," it added.



Michael Belefante (left) and David Pasquarelli of ACT UP San Francisco yell out as several hundred protesters march through the streets of downtown Vancouver Sunday prior to the opening ceremonies of the 11th International Conference on AIDS (Reuters photo)

AIDS conference starts amid hope and urgency

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — The world's biggest-ever AIDS conference started Sunday with scientists excited by the promise of new multi-drug treatments, but still daunted by the relentless spread of the disease and the remoteness of a cure.

The last six months have brought breakthroughs with the introduction of drug treatments that now offer the best hope of keeping AIDS patients alive since the killer disease first made its appearance 15 years ago.

The 11th International AIDS Conference, which has drawn 15,000 delegates from 125 countries, comes amid a mood of optimism in sharp contrast to earlier meetings in Berlin and Yokohama, Japan. The gloom there reflected researchers' failure to combat a virus that seemed always to outsmart them.

"Nobody can call AIDS an inevitably fatal, incurable disease anymore," Peter Piot, head of the United Nations AIDS Programme, said in an address opening the conference. "We have not got a cure yet, but ... the new combinations of anti-retroviral drugs are holding out new hope."

The main hope centres on new drugs, called Protease Inhibitors, which block an

enzyme crucial to the multiplication of the HIV virus. Tests so far have shown that when taken in multi-drug "cocktails" including the medicine AZT, Protease Inhibitors have reduced the virus in the blood to undetectable levels.

No one yet knows how effective these inhibitors will be over the longer term, or whether the elusive virus will develop resistance to the new treatments. But they do hold out the promise for the first time that some day AIDS may not be a death sentence.

"We are helping (AIDS patients) to live longer as opposed to merely easing pain and other symptoms," said Brian Gazzard, an AIDS expert at London's Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

Even so, medical researchers acknowledge that the ultimate goal — a cure for AIDS — is not within sight. "This reality, and evidence of the disease's relentless spread, have tempered optimism in Vancouver."

"Let us hope but ... let us keep both our feet on the ground," said Mr. Piot. The United Nations estimated 21.8 million people around the world are living with the HIV virus or AIDS. About 8,500 more people are infected daily — five

every minute — with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS.

Since the global pandemic took hold in the early 1980s, 5.8 million people have died of the disease, which destroys the immune system.

Ninety per cent of new infections are in the developing world. Because the new drug therapies, which cost around \$15,000 a year, are beyond the reach of patients in poor countries, more research is needed into ways to prevent the spread of the virus and an AIDS vaccine.

Before the conference opened on Sunday afternoon, several hundred anti-AIDS activists marched through the streets of Vancouver, denouncing governments as complacent in the search for a cure and accusing drug companies of profiteering.

"This pandemic ... is growing and people are dying," said Tom McAulay, a Vancouver man infected with HIV. "I want a cure."

Some protesters were in wheelchairs and others carried banners that read: "Keep your eye on a cure. I'm dying for an answer." They observed a minute of silence in memory of people who have died from AIDS.

1 killed, 30 injured in blast at Pakistani railway station

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP) — At least one person was killed and 30 others injured in a bomb explosion at a railway station in the industrial Pakistani city of Faisalabad Monday, police said.

Seven of the injured, two in very critical condition, were admitted to hospital, they said.

The bomb, placed in a small waiting room at a platform, went off while a passenger train was at the railway station, a senior police official said.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, which follows a series of explosions over the past three months, while police said an investigation was under way.

Bomb disposal squad officials said the explosion was caused by a locally made plastic device.

Police said the casualties were among passengers in the cabin and those around the waiting room.

The blast in Faisalabad, a textile industry hub in Punjab province about 160 kilometres from here, follows eight other bomb explosions in the region since April, claiming a total of some 80 lives.

The last explosion occurred near a bus terminal in Rawalpindi near the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, on June 27, in which three people were killed.

A bomb exploded at cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan's cancer hospital in Lahore on April 14, killing six people. Another explosion on a bus at Bhai Phero

near Lahore on April 28 left 52 people dead.

Another eight people died in a bus blast in Sheikhupura on May 5 while one person was killed when a bomb exploded at a post office in Lahore on May 26.

On June 10, eight people were killed in three simultaneous blasts in Gujranwala district, while two died in a bus explosion near Khairan Garrison town on June 16.

Some of the most serious explosions in Punjab have been blamed by Pakistani authorities on Indian secret intelligence agents without providing any evidence.

The two mutually hostile countries have frequently accused each other's intelligence agencies of masterminding terrorist attacks.

Almost all the blasts in central Pakistan's Punjab province have remained unsolved but Interior Minister Naseerullah Bahar said last week that investigators had arrested several suspects in the Rawalpindi explosion.

No details about the suspects have however been disclosed.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto currently facing an opposition campaign to oust her government, has come under increasing attacks for lax security in the country's key province.

Ms. Bhutto, whose government has stemmed large scale violence in southern port city of Karachi where more than 2,100 people have been killed over the past 18 months, has vowed to curb terrorist activities in Punjab with an iron hand.

Diana turns to Fergie for advice — paper

LONDON (R) — Princess Diana has turned to the Duchess of York for advice on her divorce settlement from Prince Charles which British newspapers Monday said hinged on her title and an order banning her from talking about her marriage.

The Times said the estranged wife of the heir to the throne had lunch with the duchess, popularly known as "Fergie", Sunday to ask for her guidance on the settlement, reported to be worth about £20 million (\$31 million).

"She has watched the recent divorce negotiations between the Duke and Duchess of York with interest," the newspaper said. Fergie's nine-year marriage to Queen Elizabeth's second son, Prince Andrew,

ended earlier this year after she agreed to a reported £2 million (\$3.1 million) settlement, to relinquish the title of "Her Royal Highness" and the social standing that goes with it.

Princess Diana, 35, is considering her response to an offer made by Prince Charles last week. One of the bagging points is her reluctance to relinquish her title.

Street closes near White House after bomb scare

WASHINGTON (R) — A one-block stretch of 17th Street near the White House was briefly closed Sunday while security officers examined a suspicious package but did not find any explosives inside, a Secret Service spokesman said. The spokesman, who asked not to be named, said that bomb experts were called to examine a package delivered to the new executive office building, which is about two blocks from the White House and houses employees who work for the president.

"There was nothing there," said the spokesman. "At around 2:45 p.m. (1845 GMT) it was declared safe." The spokesman said that the block of 17th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and H Street was closed to traffic while the package was investigated. Security at the White House, which sits on Pennsylvania Avenue at 16th Street, was tightened after the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, that killed 168 people. The several-block length of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, which serves both as the office and the residence for the president, was soon after closed to traffic.

Pilgrims flock to see image of Mary

ADELAIDE (R) — Pilgrims and sightseers are flocking in thousands to a small country church in South Australia after its priest described an image of the Virgin Mary and Child on the altar wall. "When it first appeared I shared it with people in the congregation and they said, 'well yes, if you squint your eyes, think good thoughts, maybe... Maybe,'" the Reverend Andrew Nutter told Reuters Monday. "But now everybody's coming in. Scientists, secular humanists, atheists, doubters, people who have no time for the church, and people who are faithful, see it," he said. Rev. Nutter said the image had grown stronger since he first noticed it in late 1994. "This has become a people's shrine," he said. Rev. Nutter, Anglican parish priest of the 140-year-old Christ Church in Yanakilla, south of Adelaide, said the image showed a woman looking towards the part of the church where consecrated bread was kept. It received little attention outside the parish until his article last week in a church newspaper alerted the mainstream media.

Visitor numbers, "now into the thousands," had prompted the church to schedule a weekly pilgrim service to celebrate the vision, he said. Rev. Nutter said the image may have added significance because Yanakilla was the town where Australia's first prospective saint, Mary MacKillop, founded the first school of the Sisters of St. Joseph Order. The Catholic Church has beatified MacKillop.

German graffiti tourists stumble at turnstile

NEW YORK (R) — Four German graffiti artists who came to New York City to paint the town were arrested after allegedly jumping a subway turnstile, police said. The suspects, who arrived last week from Munich, were charged with fare evasion and possession of more than two dozen cans of spray paint, a police spokeswoman said. "They came here to paint the town red, white, blue, green," police said. The four have been identified as Philipp Tewes, 19, Daniel Kleinlein, 22, Thomas Bernd, 21, and Thomas Peiser, 20. A police source told the New York Post the four "basically came here to graffiti the subway. They're not here to see the Statue of Liberty," the source said.



Orange order men mill around as the Catholic area of Portadown in the Protestant terrorist in the support. (Reuters photo)

Legislator: Pro endangering

MANILA (R) — A Philippine legislator Monday said that the country's security situation was "endangering" the lives of its citizens. The legislator, who is a member of the House of Representatives, said that the country's security situation was "endangering" the lives of its citizens. He said that the country's security situation was "endangering" the lives of its citizens.

Hurricane

Virgin Island

CHARLOTTE, AMALIA, (R) — Bertha, the first Atlantic hurricane of the season, lashed the Leeward Islands with 150 mph winds Monday and then took aim at the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Monday-morning, Bertha is expected to strike the Virgin Islands and then head towards Puerto Rico. Monday, the National Hurricane Centre said.

Although classified as a tropical hurricane, Bertha is expected to pack a powerful punch because it is likely to hit hundreds of homes and public housing projects that have not been repaired since last year's hurricane season.

At 6 a.m. ed (1200 GMT), the centre of Bertha was about 150 miles south-southwest of St. Thomas and was moving west-northwest at about 12 mph. The storm's exact position was latitude 16°N and longitude 73°W.

The broad-based storm's outer bands earlier hit the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, tearing down telegraph lines and making it difficult to obtain information about the damage. Air traffic reconnaissance aircraft extended 400 kilometres across Bertha.

Hurricane warnings were issued from the island of St. John to the north to Puerto Rico in effect for the Dominican Republic.

St. Martin has just reported wind gusts of 73 mph.

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Orange order men mill around as police block Drumcree Road to prevent the Protestant group marching through the Catholic area of Portadown Sunday. Portadown is a known stronghold of the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, one of two Protestant terrorist organisations that in the past have killed Catholics in areas from which the IRA draws support (Reuter photo)

Tense standoff over Orange march tests N. Ireland peace

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland (Agencies) — Tensions flared and rhetoric mounted Monday as a tense standoff continued between police and angry Protestants demanding to march an historic route through hostile Catholic territory.

Police fired flares and plastic bullets overnight as Orangemen demonstrated in Portadown against the Royal Ulster Constabulary's refusal to allow them to march through a Catholic area of the town.

Three men were injured by the plastic bullets, and one was in serious condition.

Petrol bombs were hurled in many parts of the province as supporters of the loyalists' traditional "right to march" set up roadblocks in Belfast and towns and villages in virtually every county.

Army helicopters with powerful beacons scoured the pre-dawn landscape seeking to flush out those trying to cut through the coils of barbed wire strung out to contain the crowd.

Many of the estimated peak crowd of 4,000 gathered at Drumcree parish church, the rallying point, had drifted away as dawn broke, but a hard core refused to budge and their numbers began to swell towards midday as police moved in reinforcements.

Police had come under a sustained rain of petrol bombs in several areas overnight.

For 189 years, Protestants in Northern Ireland loyal to British rule have staged their Orange marches through Portadown en route home from church, clad in full ceremonial regalia.

The route, virtually unchanged since the beginning, today bisects a Roman Catholic enclave, a flash-point where sentiments lie with union with Ireland, not Britain, and where the procession is regarded as inflammatory.

Last year, the police banned the march, provok-



Orange order men face police at a road block on Drumcree Road, set up to prevent the Protestant group marching through Portadown Sunday (Reuter photo)

ing violence which was calmed by a compromise that permitted the Orangemen to take their route, but without flags, chants or fanfare. Both sides acquiesced, but neither was happy.

This year, police again banned the march from entering the Catholic area, and Orange Lodge leaders called on Protestants throughout the province to rally to their support.

The confrontation raised fears of a breach in the ceasefire the loyalists have observed for some two years.

The loyalists called their ceasefire shortly after that of the Irish Republican Army (IRA). But unlike the IRA, which ended its truce last February with a series of bomb attacks on the British mainland, the loyalists had stuck to theirs.

The Reverend Ian Paisley, fiery leader of the hardline Democratic Unionist Party, appealed to the crowd to refrain from violence.

"Anyone throwing stones isn't helping our cause," he said.

"This is a hard struggle and we can only win it by unity, courage and determination."

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble said Orangemen's age-old route was the most direct from the church to town, and accused Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing, of orchestrating the Catholic protest.

"The wider agenda is the agenda of Sinn Féin/IRA which is trying at one level to drive any expression of Britishness off the streets of Northern Ireland and at another level is trying to provoke serious public disorder," he said.

The police, he said, had been "grossly irresponsible" by playing "straight into the hands of Sinn Féin."

"There are more than enough resources here in terms of security forces to have allowed the parade to move down the road, it would only have taken 15 minutes."

Meanwhile Northern Ireland police launched a murder investigation Monday after a man's body was found a few miles from the scene of a showdown between Northern Ireland Protestants and police at Portadown.

Security sources said the man was a Roman Catholic taxi-driver who had been shot in the head.

"It is a murder investigation," a police spokesman told Reuters. The man was found in his car on an estate near Lurgan, a predominantly Roman Catholic area. The motive was not known.

There have been no sectarian killings in Northern Ireland for almost two years. The last was the murder of a Catholic shot dead while working on his car on Aug. 31, 1994.

That was the day Irish Republican Army guerrillas called a ceasefire to their war on British rule which was matched months later by a similar ceasefire from Protestant loyalist gunmen battling to maintain British rule.

Loyalist gunmen, so-called because of their allegiance to the British monarchy and links with London, killed hundreds of Catholics in a campaign to terrorise the community from which the IRA draws support.

They have abided by their ceasefire despite the IRA's return to war in February with a wave of attacks on targets in Britain and continental Europe.

Legislator: Pro-democracy activists endangering Hong Kong's future

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong's "self-appointed martyrs," its pro-democracy activists, may be endangering the territory's future as a financial centre, a leading businessman warned Monday.

Chairman of Incheape Pacific Paul Cheng, a legislator representing the commercial sector, criticised pro-democracy legislators and other activists in an article in Monday's South China Morning Post.

Mr. Cheng, a member of the Beijing-appointed Preparatory Committee dealing with Hong Kong's handover to Chinese rule, singled out "those, who, for reasons best known to themselves, seek to be martyrs — looking for every opportunity to test China's tolerance" in the article.

"Are these self-appointed martyrs really acting in the best interests of Hong Kong with their scare-mongering?"

China's plan to replace the Legislative Council, elected under Governor Chris Patten's democratic reforms, with a provisional version has encountered opposition in the territory, most recently in a 60,000-signature petition collected by pro-democracy activists.

Mr. Cheng, also a chairman of the influential Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, warned their actions might endanger Hong Kong's future by "fueling international concern and uncertainty about Hong Kong, and putting at risk the flow of investment capital — and with it our economic growth and the high standard of living."

Mr. Cheng also urged legislators not to allow themselves to be hinkered by "narrow political considerations, but to consider the bigger picture and Hong Kong's long-term interests."

In his article, Mr. Cheng called for reconciliation between the Hong Kong and Chinese governments, in the run-up to Beijing's resumption of power here on July 1, 1997, in order to maintain public confidence in the territory.

"The Hong Kong and Chinese governments should call a truce in the political rhetoric, sarcastic jibes and tit-for-tat squabbling through the media, and step up cooperation at all levels" to maintain confidence in the territory, he said.

The British government and other Western powers should give China a chance

to deliver on its promise that Hong Kong would have a high degree of autonomy, he said.

Mr. Cheng said Western countries should "stop condescendingly lecturing China on the possible consequences if she fails to abide by agreements she repeatedly says she will honour."

"We have been promised a high degree of autonomy, but we are not creating an independent state, Hong Kong is a city within a sovereignty," he said, adding that "we should focus on what we do best — business, building on our economic success — and not become too political."

"Hong Kong will not change overnight on June 30, 1997," he said, "it is inevitable that there will be gradual changes after that date — not to the fundamentals, but as a natural result of a British-governed territory becoming a special region of China, governed by Hong Kong people."

"We must have greater confidence in ourselves and in our ability to handle the responsibilities, challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. And we must give the 'one country, two systems,' formula the chance to succeed," said Mr. Cheng.

China flood death toll nears 400

BEIJING (AFP) — The death toll from China's devastating floods moved steadily towards 400 Monday as tens of thousands of troops evacuated 300,000 people from some of the worst-struck cities.

New casualty figures from Guangxi, Jiangxi, Anhui and Guizhou provinces added a further 85 deaths to the previous total of just over 300, according to local officials.

No fresh information was available from the five other badly hit provinces in southern and eastern China, but a sharp rise in deaths was predicted as waters gradually subside and information is collated.

In eastern Anhui, which had more than 70 confirmed deaths early Monday, provincial authorities dispatched 50,000 soldiers, police and militia to rescue 300,000 people stranded in three badly hit cities.

The residents of Huangshan, Xuancheng and Chizhou were cut off by rising flood levels after fierce rainstorms hit the region in late June, Xinhua said.

A further 80,000 Anhui residents remained trapped by the floods, which are slowly receding, it added. More than 20 million people have been affected and hundreds of thousands made homeless in China's worst floods in 50 years.

"Our experience is that when we arrive on the ground in China, we discover that the death toll and damage assessment have been significantly underestimated," said Marcel Roux, China project coordinator for the international aid organisation, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF — Doctors Without Borders).

Mr. Roux said MSF was expecting approval by late Monday from the Chinese authorities to airlift the first blankets, tents, inflatable boats and other aid into Guizhou province, where the death toll has already reached 136.

MSF is standing by in Bordeaux, France, to send a second charter aircraft to Anhui and a third to Zhejiang, where the death toll had climbed to 43 by Thursday.

It has already raised around \$1.26 million in donations since the Civil Affairs Ministry said last Wednesday that China would accept aid from abroad.

The Red Cross Society of China has sent 400,000 yuan (\$48,000) to Anhui, Guizhou and Zhejiang, the worst affected provinces. Taiwan's Red Cross has donated \$200,000 in emergency aid, and \$72,000 has come from the Hong Kong Red Cross.

A total of 3,708 people have been reported injured in the floods.

Hurricane bears down on Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico

CHARLOTTE AMALIA, St. Thomas (R) — Bertha, the first Atlantic hurricane of the season, lashed the tiny Leeward Islands with 80 mph (130 kph) winds early Monday and then took aim at the U.S. Virgin Islands.

By mid-morning, Bertha was expected to strike the U.S. Virgin Islands and then swirl towards Puerto Rico later Monday, the National Hurricane Centre said.

Although classified as a minimal hurricane, Bertha was expected to pack a powerful punch because it was likely to hit hundreds of homes and public housing that have not been repaired since last year's hurricane season.

At 8 a.m. EDT (1200 GMT), the centre of Bertha was 170 kilometres south-southeast of St. Thomas and was moving west-northwest at about 32 kph. The storm's exact position was latitude 18.0 north and longitude 63.5 west.

The broad-based storm's outer bands earlier hit the tiny islands of Antigua and Barbuda, tearing down telephone lines and making it difficult to obtain information about the damage. Air force reconnaissance aircraft found that gale force winds extended 400 kilometres across Bertha.

Hurricane warnings were posted from the island of Dominica north to Puerto Rico. A hurricane watch was in effect for the Dominican Republic.

"St. Martin has just reported wind gusts of 73 mph

(117 km), said Max Mayfield of the hurricane centre. "They are going to have enough wind down there to do some real damage."

Shelters were opened throughout Puerto Rico, where residents frantically tried to finish hammering plywood on their windows as heavy rain began falling Monday morning.

Forecasters urged U.S. mainland residents to keep an eye on the storm, saying there was a 10 per cent chance Bertha could eventually strike south Florida by Wednesday evening.

The storm's exact path will depend upon other weather systems in the area, and whether Bertha loses strength as it passes over the mountainous Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

"The strongest winds should begin hitting St. Thomas between 9 and 10 a.m. (1300 and 1400 GMT)," said Kirk Grybowski, director of the U.S. Virgin Islands Emergency Management Agency. "Original projections called for the storm to last five hours but we now think it could be nearly double that."

At dawn, stiff wind gusts were blowing small branches from trees and light rain was beginning to fall on St. Thomas.

Roy Schneider, governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, urged residents to get to shelters and said he was calling out the National Guard to help provide security. "I will do whatever I

can to secure the island," Mr. Schneider said, adding that police would act quickly to stop any looting after the storm.

Electricity throughout the virgin islands was shut off at 5 a.m. (0900 GMT) in anticipation that power lines would be blown down from their poles.

U.S. Virgin Islands officials declared a curfew to begin at noon Monday and continue through lunchtime Tuesday.

"Let's be serious about this one, let's be prepared," Mr. Schneider urged in a radio broadcast.

Bertha was following a similar path to that of hurricane Hugo, which devastated Puerto Rico in 1989. Many of the same Leeward Islands were hit hard last year by hurricanes Luis and Marilyn, which peeled off roofs, uprooted trees and tossed boats and debris across the islands.

Red Cross officials said about one-third of the 50,000 residents on St. Thomas and St. John's could be vulnerable as they were living in homes or public housing still not completely repaired from last year. Hurricane Marilyn claimed three lives on St. Thomas and Luis was blamed for 12 deaths on Antigua.

Government officials throughout the string of tiny eastern Caribbean Islands urged residents to prepare for the storm and stock up on drinking water, gasoline (petrol) and batteries.

Burundi vows army assault to crush Hutu rebels

BUJUMBURA (R) — Burundi's defence minister said Monday a major army assault was imminent to crush Hutu rebels in a forest near a tea plant where the rebels killed 83 civilians, mostly Tutsis.

"We're finalising our preparations. It'll be a very big army operation," Firmin Sinzoyiheba, a moderate Tutsi member of the divided government, told Reuters.

Rebels of the Hutu majority claimed the attack Wednesday on Teza Tea Plant, which they described as a "military position" filled with soldiers of the Tutsi-dominated army.

The attack on Teza was the first against a major strategic economic target and demonstrated the growing ability of Hutu rebels to strike at will and push deeper into the countryside.

A ferocious hit-and-run war between the army and the rebels has claimed 150,000 lives since 1993 in the small but densely populated tea and coffee-growing central African nation.

The promised step-up in fighting comes as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cameroon was discussing a regional peacekeeping plan involving troops from Tanzania and Uganda.

Hutu President Sylvestre Ndayishimiye and Tutsi Prime Minister Antoine Ndirumbe agreed to the plan under international pressure at a June 25 regional summit in Arusha, Tanzania, but the proposal is already running into trouble from the Burundian army, which has a different view of the plan than its foreign backers. Mr. Sinzoyiheba said he wanted a peacekeeping force to be deployed mainly along the insurgency-hit borders for six months and come strictly under Burundi army command.

Western and regional backers of the plan see it as self-evident that the force must have neutral command and be capable of using firepower against both the army and

rebels.

Mr. Sinzoyiheba said the government was split on the plan. He hoped the differences would be reconciled but admitted he had little hope the initiative would succeed.

"I don't have illusions about this plan. There are many problems," he said. "Our government is like an unhappy marriage. We'll try to bring our leaders closer, because a divorce would cause more chaos and disorder."

"I have no military solution to the problem," he added. On Sunday in an interview with Reuters, Mr. Sinzoyiheba said the army had considered staging a coup to end the ethnic bloodshed but decided this would only worsen the nation's problems.

"Believe me, if I were convinced that an army coup would end our problems, I'd have done it a long time ago," he had said.

Mr. Sinzoyiheba put the strength of his army at 15,000 men, to be joined soon by another 5,000 new recruits now under training.

Asked to assess the strength of rebels who control parts of northwestern and central Burundi, he said: "It's impossible to say who's a rebel, who isn't. They're recruiting young Hutus. The countryside is full of Hutus — 80 per cent of our people."

Western aid workers in the capital Bujumbura feared a wave of reprisal killings after state television broadcast pictures of the Teza massacre.

On Friday, corpses of women and children wrapped in blood-stained shawls lay outside the still-smouldering tea factory where U.N. human rights observers counted 62 bodies including 16 charred bodies of babies and children.

Aid workers reported seven Hutus killed at the weekend in the hills north of Bujumbura but the city was calm Monday.

Air travellers fume as N. Zealand volcano spits fire

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's Mount Ruapehu spat glowing rocks bigger than cars Monday in its biggest eruption for several weeks, and volcanic ash clouds closed the country's biggest airport for the second night running.

Airlines raced to get flights out of Auckland Airport before a 7 p.m. (0700 GMT) deadline imposed by the civil aviation authority, which bans flying in darkness or in cloud.

"It's chaotic, as they're trying to get out early," an airport spokeswoman said. Some 20 outgoing and incoming international flights would be delayed, rescheduled or diverted overnight.

Scientists said Monday's outburst was the most spectacular for several weeks.

Brad Scott, manager of volcano surveillance at Wairakei Research Centre, said he had seen molten rocks up to 10 metres across thrown up to 100 metres. Smaller rocks or "lava bombs" were being hurled up to 900 metres (2,700 ft).

"If this continues into this evening, central North Island people will be presented with one of the most awesome fireworks displays they've seen for a long time," Mr. Scott told Reuters.

Half a dozen provincial airports were also closed to avoid the risk of volcanic ash clogging jet engines.

Air New Zealand said about 3,000 domestic and interna-

tional passengers had suffered delays or cancellations. Morning fog in both Wellington and Auckland compounded air travellers' misery, adding to delays caused by the ash cloud.

Ruapehu, whose Maori name means "exploding pit", burst into life in September 1995 and again last month in its most spectacular eruptions for half a century.

Helicopter pilot John Funnell, who flew over the volcano with scientists, said he had never seen it in such violent mood.

"The volcano would stop gassing and appear to keel over for about one minute and then it would erupt with a horrendous explosion and the molten rock would go into the air about 700 feet (230 metres) to 1,000 feet (330 metres) above the actual volcano and then crash down on the snow," he said.

Mr. Scott said a light grey plume of volcanic gases had climbed up to 15,000 feet (5,000 metres) above the volcano and was trailing over a distance of some 100-150 kilometres, presenting a potential hazard to aviation.

The Civil Defence Ministry said the latest fireworks were "nothing to be concerned about" and there were no plans to evacuate people from the region.

But Mr. Scott said some onlookers had hatched a two kilometre exclusion zone around the volcano. "That's their personal choice. I just hope they don't get too close."

The strength of the European approach to the phenomenon of Islamism is the desire to bold dialogue, learn and build a future based on truths and shared values, leading eventually to shared prosperity in a wide geographic bome; its weakness is that it stresses religion too much and does not sufficiently appreciate the sharp political, social and economic dissatisfactions that underlie and drive the expressions of Islamist politics. The opportunities for dialogue, political reform, cultural interaction and shared economic endeavour that Europe offers our region today are truly historic, and very important. We should recognise, though, that Europe's Mediterranean initiative is driven by a combination of fears and hopes, to which we should respond with far more clarity and depth than the occasional request for more European aid, greater pressure on Israel or better appreciation of our cultural particularities.

The writer is managing editor of the Paris-based magazine ISSUES. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

BREAD IS one of the basic, essential food commodities for the majority of Jordanians and therefore the government is called on to act wisely in handling the question of increasing its prices, said Saleb Qallab, minister for Al Dustour. It is important for the government to come up with a solution to this question and convince the public with its views if it wants to avoid the serious problems that arose in other countries when bread prices were biked, he cautioned. It should be said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is helping Jordan reform its national economy, has asked the government to lift the subsidy on bread, effectively raising its prices, and in this situation, the government has three options: to reject such demand outright, to succumb to the IMF's wishes or to reach a compromise with the IMF over gradual compliance with such requirements, continued the writer. He said it is not possible to have either of the first two options, and thus the government can only settle this question by offering Jordanians who deserve subsidy an amount of cash they would be paying for the difference between the current and proposed bread prices.

By Kara Swisher

EMPLOYEES WERE asleep when the 24 computers in the Kensington, Md., headquarters of Central Management Inc. started beeping into a dark room at 10:30 p.m. (ENR 2/9/88 p. 10).

The beeping alarm indicated that the computers were working at full capacity and more data would be stored than could be timely stored. Eventually, between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., the 24 computers crashed.

The crash was caused by a program error that was a combination of a fix to a problem in the network that the company's president, Gene East, had made, and a change in the hardware. The hardware change was a computer upgrade that took 24 hours to complete. The firm had planned to migrate the data of the firm and its clients to the new hardware.

East and his staff and staff of the firm had to try to contact the data engineers to get the data transferred. The engineers had packed the data on another mainframe. After much discussion, transferring the information was able to transfer the information. The firm quickly invested in a data backup-up program that would be installed after the next crash.

"I thought we were dead as Adam," Knapowski says. "Because when the new program down, the new program down with the network is down."

The words had a chilling quality for the information workers. Ripping across the data duty, the call was to the curses to go and the scheduled to break up the computer on the break up in union.

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For today's office workers, the transition to linked-up PCs is not without its special perils

By Kara Swisher

EMPLOYEES WERE delighted when the 24 computers in the Kensington, Md., headquarters of Century Pool Management Inc. were wired together into a network. It meant the information needed to run 250 community swimming pools — proper chlorine levels, work schedules for 1,000 lifeguards, and more — could be freely traded electronically between different screens.

Then came a few errant keystrokes. They were made by a computer consultant who had volunteered to fix a small problem on the network as a favour to Century Pool's president, Gene Kijowski. In a few seconds, the entire network came crashing down — the failure of one computer became the failure of 24. Information that the firm needed, minute-to-minute, vanished.

Fearful of the time and money it would cost to reconstruct the lost data through telephone calls and paper invoices, a panicked Kijowski called another consultant. After much emergency tinkering, the second consultant was able to recover the information. The firm quickly invested \$1,000 in a data back-up device to ensure it would be covered after the next crash. "I thought we were dead in the water," Kijowski says. "Because when the network goes down, the business goes down with it."

The network is down. Those words have a chilling familiarity for the information age worker. Rippling across offices daily, they are followed by curses and sighs and unscheduled coffee breaks as computer screens freeze up in unison. The culprit is the "local area network," or LAN —

an electronic pipeline that ties together once-isolated personal computers. When LANs work correctly, employers often swear by them: They allow people to exchange messages, documents and software and to work cooperatively without leaving their desks.

But LAN technology, offices all over the country are discovering, is prone to failures that knock a network off-line with infuriating regularity. Getting it to work can be beyond the capabilities of the office computer maven, forcing the business to hire more people, retrain others and generally spend more money than planned.

"The personal computer remains a disorderly corporate citizen, expensive to manage and a focus for security, virus and lost data disasters," according to "The LAN Money Pit," a report by Forrester Research Inc. of Cambridge, Mass. Each user on a networked system loses about six days of productive time a year because of problems, costing about \$1,350 per PC, per year, the firm estimates.

"You would always lose the document you were working on," says Magrit Nabra, a Washington attorney with first-hand experience with networks. "When it was down, I tried to calm myself. ... But I still said a lot of things that aren't printable."

But despite the problems, American workplaces are making LANs as common as water-colours, in the belief that, whatever their flaws, they will allow productivity. About 90 per cent of businesses nationwide now have some sort of internal computer network in place, according to market research firm International Data Corp., with about 2 million LANs

shipped to market in 1995. "They are basically everywhere that counts," says Lee Doyle, an analyst at the firm. "It has been where all the growth in the information technology market has taken place."

Sheldon Laube, former chief technology officer with Utah-based Novell Corp., the nation's largest seller of LAN software, has heard the complaints. He insists that the technology works. The problem is that people don't always apply it correctly.

"Problems occur when there is an enormous rush to change without an understanding of where it all fits," says Laube, who says that one of Novell's biggest efforts has been to help customers better use its products, improve security and lower the costs of system ownership and maintenance. "Every new technology is always harder than the previous one before it."

Outsiders, however, contend that the LAN makers could bear some of the blame. "It's true that the LAN systems have become more mature with time and most of the bugs have been worked out," says Waverly Deutsch, senior analyst with Forrester Research in Cambridge. "But even if the problems are caused by the user, the software has to be idiot-proof."

Joint computing used to mean using big "mainframe" computers, with their collections of user terminals. Despite their size, mainframes are inherently simple, with all key computer operations going on in one processing unit. And because the systems have been around since the 1950s, most of the bugs have been exterminated.

In the 1980s, personal computers became common and they offered much more flexibility — in computing. Brightly coloured,

personalised screens, easier use, fancy fonts, video images. At first they were "stand-alone" units. Then engineers began inventing ways to link them together into networks. Rather than the computing power being in one place, it would be spread all over the network.

A basic LAN is built around a "server," a computer that stores software and data. The server acts as traffic cop as information moves around what can be miles of wiring that links up desktop units.

The desktop units contain complex software and hardware of their own that allow them to monitor traffic going by on the network and grab what's intended for them or add more to the stream. A desktop computer might contact the server to get software for a job, conduct the requested computing, send the results to another computer on the network, and then recontact the server for more software.

But this increased complexity — and distribution of functions — multiplies the potential points of trouble.

Some examples: A server stuffed in a small closet overheats because office supplies are stacked on top of it; communication cables connecting personal computers placed too close to electrical wires generate data transmission glitches; or software made by one company refuses to work with software made by another, freezing the whole system.

Networks also are vulnerable because employees often tinker with settings on their PCs — even if that's against company rules — inadvertently creating conflicts with the network. Or they install their own home software programmes on computers at work, which then introduce computer

viruses into the network. Or, they kick plugs out of sockets.

In short, there are too many people with an ability to screw things up, and too few well-trained ones in the systems department who know how to straighten things out. According to the Forrester report, LANs cost three times more to maintain than mainframe systems.

"It's like being in constant white-water," says Jeffrey Swallen, manager of technical support for Trigon Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Richmond-based health care organisation that is Virginia's largest. "I think we have all found that making the technology work has proved more difficult than one would think."

Like many, Trigon made the shift over the last few years from a primarily mainframe system to a network linking thousands of computers. The hope was that employees would be able to serve customers more efficiently.

"Making different software from different vendors work together and keeping things working has not been easy," Swallen says. "With the mainframe, there is basically one path."

With networks, "Sometimes, for example, you upgrade one piece of software and it makes something else stop working... and another programme might end up using too much memory and slows every other programme down."

Tim Yuchenberg, an information services director at the Herndon, Va., office of Sallie Mae, the government-sponsored student loan company, knows these problems too.

"Mainframe technology has developed over the last 25 years and the support is there that you just don't see in the new systems yet,"

says Yuchenberg, whose 500-person information services division serves Sallie Mae's 5,000 employees.

Like many businesses, Sallie Mae is not making the switch in full, continuing to use a mainframe for certain functions. Yuchenberg estimates that Sallie Mae's mainframe, often called a "legacy system," only suffers a major failure once every two or three years. On the other hand, network crashes are a weekly occurrence.

A common computer industry joke: The definition of a legacy system is that it works.

That's why Giant Food Inc. also took the slow approach in rolling out a 1,000-computer network at corporate headquarters in Landover, Md. It was only recently, says Bob Schoening, senior vice president of information systems, that everyone using the network got electronic mail capabilities.

Giant has established strict centralised rules over what is meant to be a decentralised system, giving its information systems division power over what is bought and used by each corporate area. Its advertising department, for example, was only recently allowed to link its Macintosh computers to Giant's IBM-oriented system.

"We took a hard position," Schoening says. "But companies that let everyone do what they wanted in each part of the network are really having a horrible time linking everyone up."

And keeping everything secure is another challenge — the more open the system, the more it is open to attack. "Security and the networking world have still not come up to levels they need to be," says Larry Meador, president of Management Support Technol-

ogy Corp., a consulting firm. "When information was sitting only on a mainframe, this was obviously not an issue."

The Washington, D.C.-based American Association of Dental Schools, for example, got hit with the "Satanbug" just after it installed its 50-computer network in 1994. That spurred it to add an anti-virus programme. "It's definitely been a learning process and everyone has their horror stories," says Thomas Freeland, AADS assistant executive director.

Networks' often delicate health has created a huge new consulting and servicing business. According to Susan Scrupski, editor of InfoServer, a New Jersey newsletter on the computer services business, the network consulting business is growing at about 75 per cent annually.

Guy Wassertzug, president of InfoStructures Inc. of Rockville, Md., a computer services firm with 10 employees, helps organisations such as the National Rifle Association and the Smithsonian Institution set up and maintain networks.

Wassertzug has aimed the company at networks because there is more money there. A service contract for a mainframe system runs about \$50 an hour, he says, while companies are willing to pay twice that for people who understand networks.

Joe Matera, president of Computer Pros, says business has indeed been increasing since he opened his doors in 1982, though he thinks that businesses are now becoming comfortable with computer networks. "They are becoming increasingly reliable," he says. "The industry is maturing and the technology is getting better and people are more comfortable with it all."

Networking expert Laube agrees. "The adoption of LANs is a mature market and companies are well on their way to even newer technologies," he says. Among the newer networking trends emerging are "Intranets," company-wide sites that use the same technology as the Internet's worldwide network of computers that has become so popular and that also connect the company to the outside world. This approach allows employees, in effect, to set up their own Web sites — accessible only to other employees.

Pat Setser, director of information services at the American Geophysical Union, argues that users must be patient as new technology continues to develop in the workplace. "People will wait three hours for a delayed flight in an airport — and put up with it — and then get furious when their computer is down for only a few minutes," he says. "What they should remember is that it is amazingly complicated and it's only going to get more so in the future."

And for all the headaches, LAN users generally say that they are happy they made the leap to networking. "It's been important to have it to allow us to work more efficiently, communicate among ourselves and open up our data to more people," AADS's Freeland says.

Century Pool's Kijowski, despite his own "horror story," agrees: "I wish I had done it even sooner," he says. "The network is my business."

The Washington Post

Increase in bread prices will not affect citizens

(Continued from page 1)

subsidies are retained at the present levels the deficit in the fiscal budget will be doubled and the country will bear the consequences of the debt burdens," said the prime minister.

He said that the government will not increase the price of bread before pay-

ing the Jordanian citizens the difference in the price, adding that this scheme will save the country nearly \$53 million annually.

He said that the government has been subsidising bread by JD 80 million; fodder by JD 80 million; sugar, powdered milk and rice by JD 40 million.

Government officials have earlier said that the government is forced to lift subsidies from bread due to the increase of the cost of the prices of wheat on the international market. The prices of wheat have gone up by more than three folds and the amount of funds allocated in the budget for subsidising wheat will only cover one third of the cost. Maintaining the subsidy will mean a budget deficit which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned the Kingdom against allowing. The IMF warned that it will end its cooperation with the country if it does not keep a balanced budget and lift the subsidies.

At the outset of the meet-

ing, deputies demanded that the government refrain from raising the prices of bread because, they said, bread is the basic food for the majority of Jordanian families. They demanded that the government find other means to reduce the deficit in the budget.

Opposition deputies warned the government against increasing bread prices, saying that would be crossing a "red line."

"Jordanian citizens are no more able to bear additional financial burdens and the increase in the bread prices could serve as a time bomb that might blow up any moment," said the deputies, who demanded that the government find other means to address the budget deficit.

Minister of Supply Munir Sobar was quoted as saying the rise in bread prices was still being discussed and no date had been set. He added that the government hopes to cut 40 per cent of the subsidy earmarked for bread, expected to hit \$150 million in 1996.

Deadly trade is legacy of Vietnam war

By Adrian Edwards
Reuters

KHE SANH, Vietnam — high in the hills of Quang Tri province, a member of one of Vietnam's hilltribes is searching with a \$50 metal detector through the eerie remains of the former U.S. war base at Khe Sanh.

The undulating electronic buzz is almost the only sound audible other than that of mosquitoes swarming above the barren red-earth plateau in the intense heat of the early tropical afternoon.

"When the sound stops, I begin digging," he explains, then demonstrates for the benefit of an accompanying camera.

Khe Sanh, a U.S. base in the middle of nowhere, became a virtual buzzword in early 1968 for the futility of America's wartime involvement in Vietnam.

The infamous siege that took place here at that

time cost the lives of untold thousands of north Vietnamese soldiers and around 500 Americans.

Historical perspective is still unclear, but it's widely accepted the battle was intended to divert U.S. attention from preparations for the Tet offensive, which followed a week later across what was then south Vietnam.

Today lives are still being lost here and across this province as a direct consequence of that battle and of the war as whole.

Until only a few years ago the surface of the Khe Sanh base was littered with bullets, casings, mortars, incendiary bombs and other remains from the war. Many were undetonated.

Metal prospectors started appearing on the scene — local people intent on making an extra buck by digging up and dismantling old equipment and bombs and selling them as scrap metal or tourist souvenirs.

At first the main buyers were firms in Japan. Today it's local businesses and a state-owned metal firm further north in Vietnam itself.

"I reckon we get around 20 tonnes of bombs here each week," says Thai Quang Thanh, a worker at a local scrap merchant in nearby Dong Ha town.

"We only cut up the bombs. Tanks and armoured cars are cannibalised for spare parts."

In this desperately poor area of Vietnam, where per capita earnings are as low as \$120 a year, it's easy to see why the temptation to scavenge should outweigh the risks.

A 250 kg bomb can be worth up to \$28, representing a substantial windfall.

But the human price of this deadly trade is high. According to officials with the provincial authorities, prospectors, many of them children, are killed or maimed

almost every week.

"And that's only the cases where they bring bodies to hospitals," says the official arranger of our visit, Hoang Nam. "We think the real number is much higher."

At the Khe Sanh base, however, the quantity of war leftovers being found has dropped in recent years. Fewer casings are seen these days lying on the plateau surface. Some are arranged conveniently for the benefit of the growing tourist trade.

But across Quang Tri province, as well as in provinces further south, no one has to look very far for real and deadly reminders of the war.

This area was the scene of many of the bloodiest battles of the entire Vietnam war.

Hamburger hill, Aloui camp, the rockpile and razor hill lie nearby — names irretrievably associated with some of the most brutal moments of

the entire Vietnam conflict.

The amount of ordnance simply left lying around from a war that cost the United States at least \$165 billion is astonishing even today.

Across the province villagers can be seen digging holes for war remnants, often as groups of young children watch on.

The consequences are grim.

In addition to the deaths, official figures record some 4,054 people suffered serious injuries in Quang Tri by bombs, mines and other devices between 1985 and 1994.

The majority of cases involved the loss of one or more limbs.

"The state doesn't want to encourage people to do this, so we don't provide any help for the families of victims," says Mr. Nam.

Netanyahu leaves for U.S

(Continued from page 1)

Other Israeli reports have speculated that Netanyahu's government may be prepared to push for a partial deal in which Israel withdrew from the zone it has occupied in South Lebanon since the 1980s.

A statement from the Prime Ministry responding to the various media reports said only that Mr. Netanyahu "did not intend to leak to the press issues he would bring up with the American president."

Mr. Netanyahu met with Golan settlers in his Jerusalem office Monday before leaving for Washington.

Yebuda Wolman, a leader of Golan residents, said Mr. Netanyahu was given a proposal for development on the strategic plateau that Syria wants in return for peace.

"The response was most positive," Ms. Wolman told Israel Radio.

On Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet cut 4.9 billion shekels (\$1.5 billion) from the 174-billion shekels (454 billion) 1997 budget.

The cuts will reduce spending on the army, police, education, and construction as well as lower incentives for industrial investments in peripheral

(Continued from page 12)

He said the agreement will also encourage regional cooperation between Jordan and neighbouring countries through the rules of origin and the funding of regional projects.

Dr. Abdul Jaber concluded his paper by saying that Jordan should strengthen economic and technical cooperation between its private sector and the EU and enhance economic relations with Arab countries in trade, labour exchange, investments and regional projects.

He added that the Kingdom should expand its economic relations with the Palestinian self-rule areas and try to remove the Israeli impediments to this cooper-

Experts highlight opportunities, economic cooperation challenges

Jordan, he said, should also try to improve accessibility of its exports and labour to the Israeli market.

Presenting the Egyptian perspective on cooperation with the EU which hopes to create the world's largest trade area by connecting its market to that of Mediterranean by the year 2010, Ayman Zaineldine, first secretary in the Euro-Egyptian partnership unit at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, presented a paper on the challenges facing the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, stating that many differences remain to be overcome before the conclusion

of the agreement between the EU and Egypt can be reached.

In his paper, he said one of the obstacles which face the Euro-Egyptian association agreement is the EU's refusal to fully liberalise its trade in agricultural products, adding that the EU exports more agricultural products to its Mediterranean neighbours than it imports.

Mr. Zaineldine added that another difference is the "idea which was brought forward by the EU of inserting a clause in the bilateral agreements stipulating that one party could partially or fully suspend the agreement

unilaterally if it considers that human rights have been violated by the other party."

He said that the agreement "might not deliver its returns, and its participants might live to regret a great chance lost" if the lingering differences are not resolved.

Speaking about Tunisia's experience after signing the association agreement with the EU, Amor Jilani, director of the United Nations Specialised Agencies Department at the Ministry of International Cooperation and Foreign Investment in Tunisia, said the agreement presents a unique opportunity to modernise the Tunisian economy and

enabling the country to compete in a market of more than 350 million consumers with high purchasing power.

In the session devoted to political dialogue within the Mediterranean region and its impact on the economies of the area, five speakers addressed the issue from the different perspectives of their countries and the unique economic and political environments prevailing in them.

While Senator Jawad Anani spoke about the opportunities and challenges offered under the new environment of peace, he warned in a paper enti-

tled "Peace and Economic Prospects" against the negative impact of the failure of the peace process to achieve comprehensive peace in the region.

Addressing the session was also Abdel Moneim Said Ali, director of Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo, who presented a paper on the Regional Cooperation in the Middle East.

Hilseyin Bagci, assistant professor at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, discussed the "Turkish contribution to the Political Dialogue in the New Environment in the

Middle East", Khemais Jinaoui, head of the interests office of Tunisia in Tel Aviv, presented a paper on the political dialogue in the Middle East and Sven Behrendt from the University of Munich delivered a paper on "Europe and the Peace Process: Potential and Constraints".

The conference will end today, Tuesday, after five other speakers discuss the chances and obstacles for trade and investment in the region.

Also discussed in the final day of the conference will be the models and mechanisms of economic cooperation and integration perspectives for the Middle East.

Jordan sets up top state privatisation body

AMMAN (R) — Jordan has decided to form a senior body to speed up its slow-moving IMF-directed privatisation effort, officials said Monday.

A ministerial committee chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti will formulate policy such as privatisation priorities and a timetable for sales, a senior economic official said.

Jordan embarked this year with the IMF on a three-year reform programme that offers a \$295 million extended fund facility in return for steps to further liberalise its economy.

The committee, the first institutional framework for

privatisation, will oversee an executive unit to be formed in coming months that would be linked to the prime ministry and implement a speeded-up programme of selling state assets.

The reform programme follows monetary stabilisation under IMF guidance since a Jordanian economic crisis in 1989 wiped out its reserves.

It includes long-delayed privatisation of state utilities, accelerated moves to update laws, development of the domestic capital market and reform of the stock market by setting up a regulatory securities and exchange commission.

Jordan will submit to the IMF a timetable for privatisation, needed to boost confidence among investors critical of Jordan's pace.

The government has taken tentative steps toward allowing private investment in state-dominated services, including telecommunications and power generation. But, despite pledges, it has not sold profitable state concerns or large stakes in firms listed in the stock market.

The ministerial committee will examine options to speed privatisation of state enterprises by offering either stakes to strategic partners or on the stock market.

Yeltsin seen facing tough budget battle

MOSCOW (R) — The election party is over, the champagne corks have popped, and now is the time for President Boris Yeltsin to replenish Kremlin coffers or face economic doom, economists said Friday.

"There are no grounds for euphoria," declared the headline of an article in the Izvestia daily by Mikhail Delyagin, of the presidential administration's economic problems group.

"There is no money, no credit and non-payments are as bad as ever," said Christopher Graville, head of research at United City Bank.

Mr. Yeltsin scattered expensive promises in a bid to secure his re-election, a worrying trend when his budget coffers were already short of 30 trillion roubles — the 40 per cent of tax revenues he failed to collect in the first half.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission, starting a monthly review of its \$10 billion loan to Russia on July 15, will be seeking assurances that these revenues are collected and the budget put back on its feet.

"Economic priorities are to make clear the make-up of the new cabinet, define its goals and address the budget situation with a view to raising revenues as soon as possible and ensuring the expenditure programme is consistent with overall budget goals," Thomas Wolf, head of the fund's Moscow mission, said.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, expected to keep his post at the head of Mr. Yeltsin's new team which is still to be named, told a cabinet meeting Friday that the budget problems would be its immediate priority.

"Non-payment of taxes and their unsatisfactory collection and excessive volumes of tax relief and budget guarantees," would have to be sorted out, Mr. Chernomyrdin was quoted by Interfax News Agency as saying.

Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov said Mr. Yeltsin's campaign promises were in line with the budget, but economists were more cautious, saying the numbers were all unclear.

"My guess is the government will just quietly shelve a lot of these promises. There's plenty of room for fudge and compromise," said a Western economist who asked not to be named.

The government can also cut other spending programmes, including wage payments, he said.

On Friday the government approved a list of tough measures which it hopes will recover all the unpaid taxes so far and ensure they roll in on time in the second half.

Joachim Wermuth, a Western economist working with the finance ministry, told Reuters the 30-point programme would impose high interest rates on delayed payments and threaten culprits with the imposition of a government administrator if they did not pay.

Tighter controls on energy exports and alcohol excise duties would also be imposed, he said.

"The Russian government has decided to accept a long list of severe measures to collect tax arrears," said Mr. Wermuth. "With the help of these measures we hope tax collection will be much improved in the near future."

Iraq hopes to begin exporting oil in 2 weeks

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq's oil minister, General Amer Mohammad Rashid, said his government hoped to sign contracts with foreign companies and begin exporting oil in two weeks under the U.N. oil-for-food deal.

General Rashid told reporters late Saturday that Baghdad hoped U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali would approve an Iraqi plan to distribute food from the limited sale of oil in the next week.

"Then we will sign contracts with (foreign) companies and four or five days later the tankers would arrive and be filled with Iraqi oil," General Rashid said.

"We are still optimistic despite the malicious intentions of some parties on the (U.N.) Security Council," the minister added.

"American attempts" to prevent the implementation of the oil-for-food deal between the United Nations and Iraq "have failed," he said.

Although an agreement in

principle was reached May 20, obstacles remain on the details of the plan, which allows Iraq to sell up to \$2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy badly needed food and medicines.

It is a partial lifting of the crippling economic embargo placed on Iraq for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

U.S. officials have said the Iraqi plan is unacceptable because it gives Baghdad too much control over food distribution, particularly in areas controlled by rebel Kurds.

But diplomats at the United Nations in New York said they were encouraged by the progress of discussions between U.N. and Iraqi officials, adding that Baghdad was revising its plans and a solution was likely to be found to overcome U.S. objections.

"As soon as the U.N. approves the distribution plan, companies will be invited to sign contracts," General Rashid said.

Government sets off price spiral in Romania

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Dizzying price rises introduced in Romania last week have sent shock waves through the population and plunged the political world into effervescence only four months from the next elections.

The people were expecting the government to announce new privatisations but instead it hiked prices by between 32 and 58 per cent for many staples including fuel, electricity and bread.

The government said the rises had been imposed on it by the "need to maintain macro-economic stability and pursue reforms".

The World Bank praised the government for its "courageous action" designed to "stimulate development of the energy sector and of the Romanian economy". The inference was that without the price hikes, Romania would have forfeited the bank's support.

Petrol (gasoline) rose by 32 per cent, electricity and home-heating fuel by 58 per cent and bread by 52 per cent.

The increase in the cost of petrol had been expected after being postponed for several months but Roma-

nians said they feared it would trigger a rash of other increases as has happened several times since the market reforms began in 1990.

On Friday, the price of a ticket on the subway went up from 250 lei (\$0.8) to 300 lei (about \$1). The railways have announced a 40 per cent average increase in fares for the end of July.

The furniture and building materials industry have warned that prices will go up by 20 per cent between now and the end of the month.

"From the farmers who sell their produce on the free market to the hairdressers or carmakers, no one is going to leave his prices unchanged," said Adrian Stancu, an economist.

He said producers would take advantage of the hikes to "recover part of the losses incurred by their own inefficiency".

As in the past, the government promised that the rises would be "100 per cent" offset by wage boosts. The government proposed an average rise of 20,000 lei (\$6.5) a month for workers but trade

unions dismissed the offer as "ludicrous".

Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu said the "price readjustments" would translate into an inflation of 7.0 per cent for July — a record since 1993. After this, the rate would return to around two per cent, he said, though specialists said this figure was "largely underestimated".

Mindful of the impact of the increases on the electorate, the Social Democracy Party of President Ion Iliescu urged the government Thursday to "find a way to increase compensations" to salaried workers.

The opposition meanwhile accused the government of following a "disastrous" policy and said Romanians would only "really be compensated" after the next elections.

The Democratic Convention (CDR) coalition, the leading opposition formation, is considering convening a special session of parliament to debate the "catastrophic" effects of the price increases on purchasing power which is already only half what it was in 1990.

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JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Herd Arnold and Mike Arpington

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KREPY
FAHFC
THEIRZ
VAHDL

Print answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: HABIT DAILY TAMPER BOLERO
Answer: How the crying infant left the baby sitter - RATTLEO

(Answers tomorrow)

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"Your mom was just going through a box of your old toys and she found a pack of cigarettes. You're grounded."

Peanuts

HERE'S A BROCHURE FOR A SUMMER CAMP THAT...

SORRY...IF ANYONE MENTIONS SUMMER CAMP TO ME, I FREAK OUT...

WELL, HERE'S ANOTHER BROCHURE FOR A SUMMER CAMP THAT SAYS...

Andy Capp

ANDY: "I'VE GOT A NEW IDEA FOR MY JOURNALISM..."

HE LOVES THE IDEA OF WRITING, BUT DOESN'T KNOW THE BEST WAY TO START.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT?

WASH HIS PICKING HIS HORSES

Mutt'n'Jeff

I SAID I CAN'T SEE A THING WITH THAT POST IN FRONT OF ME!

I CAN'T REMOVE IT, SIR!

LOOK! I DEMAND A SEAT WHERE I CAN SEE!

O.K. SIR! GET UP!

THE Daily Crossword by Rager Jurgovan

ACROSS

1 Starch
5 Fire
12 Old times, once
13 Kind of skirt
17 Hurry
18 Peeve
19 Old allowance
20 German
21 Absolve
22 Surgeon
23 Start to cycle
24 Have being
25 Malware
26 Basketball
32 Saved without return
35 Challenge
37 Vexes
39 Plant angle
41 Greek warrior
42 Crept
43 Siamese, now
44 Sheriff Dillon
45 Recorded
46 Land of leprechauns
47 Uriah
49 Arranged once more
51 River in Belgium
52 Integers: abbr.
54 Costa
56 Clear
62 Like most mammals
65 Ms. Miles
66 Make worse
68 Sci. course
69 Lure
70 Molecular component
71 Must pay
72 Only
73 Jay

DOWN

1 Hook's minion
2 Cab
3 Use hyperbole
4 Tightwad
5 Comp. pt.
6 Farm unit
7 Blandish

8 Japanese stringed instrument
9 Disentangle
10 Modena money
11 Eat caralully
14 Field shelter
16 Follower of: sufi.
18 — Penh
22 Age
24 Last desirable
26 Earliest man?
27 Indian prince
29 Shankar's instrument
30 Run away
31 Monica of tannis
33 Elate
34 Log
36 Lessen the seriousness
38 Passover meal
40 Reclines
48 Lodz's land: abbr.
50 Flow
53 Hummed

55 Conspiratorial group
56 A Gabor subj.
57 Stranger: pref.
58 Crop
59 Tree feller

60 Mexican snack
61 Environmental
63 Jacket
64 Trial car
67 Inspect

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JULY 9, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study a proposal well today by a fellow associate before you accept the full contents. Later tonight, look into your financial status for necessary changes in your money situation and see if you can put some aside.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Be careful you do not take that action you have in mind too quickly today, or you can regret it in the days ahead. Think things through completely so the solution to some career matters and you will make the correct decision.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't permit a friend to persuade to take some fast action today on a matter you have not yet analysed to its fullest. Later this evening will be good for spending some time with close friends and have a good time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be sure to keep promises made in civic or career matters today without trying to make changes in your course of action. Avoid overspending on any items for your loved ones which is not absolutely necessary for them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take it easy where some costly activity is concerned today. A close friend give you needed information for some new project, which will help in the completion. Avoid a certain newcomer who could cause some difficulties.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't try to pull a fast one in business today, or you could spoil your career and making further advances. Avoid being too inquisitive concerning your career activities or you could be into hot water with some bigwig.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a plan for which your fellow associates are not yet ready for today, so put it aside for a while. Don't commit yourself to monetary projects at this time or you could find yourself in financial difficulties.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Carry on with the career activities you have found to be successful and don't change your methods of operation. This evening is best for self-improvement and you can discover the best method to achieve your success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Go after the entertainment which you like today and steer clear of the modern methods of operation which are not your cup of tea. This evening will be good for completing any career activities which are currently in operation.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Avoid criticism at your home today and you can improve the situation there. This is a good day to invite close friends into your home and have a good time with them, show some affection for your loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan how to have more accord with fellow associates today rather than try to force new plans on them. One in power later this evening is disagreeable, so steer clear of this individual at this time, until a better moment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't jeopardise your safe position today by making some foolish investment at this time. Listen to the opinions of others especially those in authority who can provide you with good advice on being successful.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Dollar h

THE DOLLAR — The dollar rose past the 111 yen barrier in its highest level in 20 months on Monday, helped by growing expectations that U.S. interest rates may rise and by a surplus in Japan's current account.

The dollar rose as high as 111.5 yen in Tokyo morning trading, its highest point since January 1994, but lost ground to 111.3 yen by noon. The dollar was higher in New York at 111.5 yen in afternoon trading.

The dollar's renewed rise in Tokyo followed a rise in the dollar index around 0.5 per cent. The U.S. Federal Reserve holds its policy meeting on Friday, which would widen the interest rate gap between the U.S. and Japan.

When the pattern of high-yielding Japanese yen and selling of Japanese yen currencies in the yen market, an increase in interest rates should strengthen the dollar, said a senior bank official.

The dollar may head up to around 113 yen, although there's a chance that the dollar's rise has been overdone, said Noriyuki

CORRECTION

The Jordan Times regrets a geographical error that appeared Monday, July 8, in the article written by Francesco Ciriaci.

The article stated that "Hikma Pharmaceuticals" was a Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturing company. According to the Ministry of Health, the situation has worsened to an unacceptable extent, especially after the 1989 devaluation of the Jordanian dinar.

The correct reading should be: "Hikma Pharmaceuticals" with JD 21.5 million of pharmaceuticals exported in 1995, is a top of the list of the Jordanian pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, according to the Ministry of Health. The situation has worsened to an unacceptable extent, especially after the 1989 devaluation of the Jordanian dinar.

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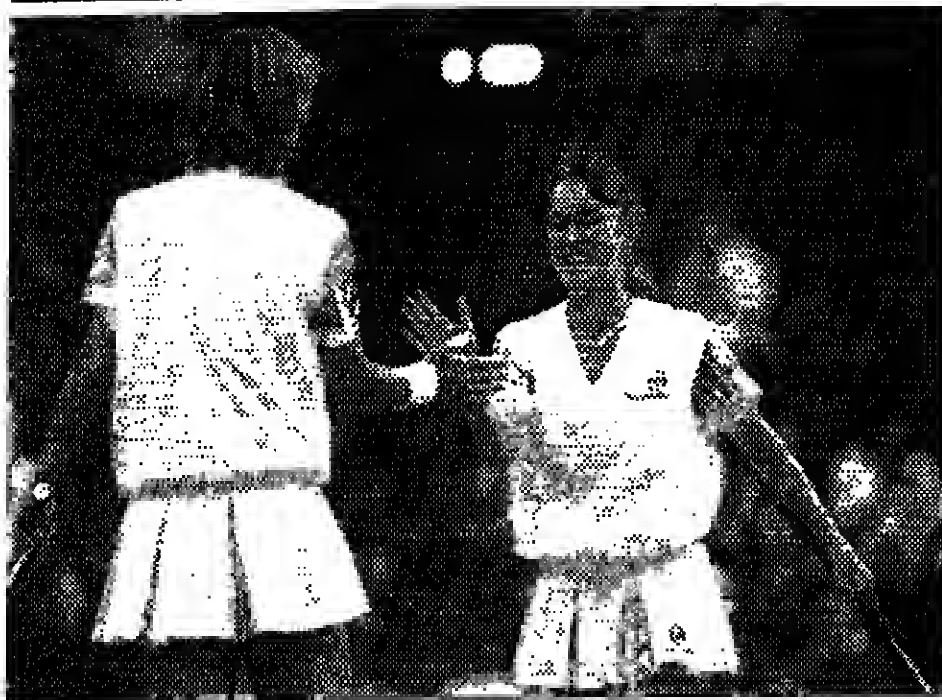
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Umm Uthaina behind San Rock Hotel



Martina Hingis of Switzerland (right) celebrates with her doubles partner Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic during their ladies doubles final match July 7. The match was resumed Monday as darkness ended play with Hingis and Sukova up 4-1 in the final set (Reuters photo)

Hingis captures doubles title to make Wimbledon history

LONDON (AFP) — Fifteen-year-old Martina Hingis of Switzerland became the youngest-ever winner of a senior title in the history of Wimbledon here Monday when she joined forces with Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic to win the women's doubles.

Leading 4-1 in the third set when the final

against fourth seeds Larisa Neiland of Latvia and Meredith McGrath of the United States resumed on Monday, the eighth-seeded Hingis and Sukova raced home 5-7, 7-5, 6-1.

Hingis was three days younger than Lottie Dodd who won the singles title at the age of 15 years 281 days in 1887.

Graf getting too close for comfort

LONDON (AFP) — Wimbledon legend Martina Navratilova may have buried the hatchet with world No. 1 — Steffi Graf — but the German champion's seventh singles title win at the weekend means that she is now within striking distance of taking over from her in the record books.

Nine times winner Navratilova, who has won more Wimbledon singles titles than anyone else, had been bidding for a record-equaling 20th Wimbledon title at the weekend until she was beaten in the quarterfinals of the mixed-doubles alongside Jonathan Stark by Grant Connell of Canada and Lindsay Davenport of the United States.

Had she repeated her mixed doubles triumph of twelve months ago she would have tied her friend Billie Jean King on 20 Wimbledon titles.

The 39-year-old Navratilova, who apolo-

gized to Graf last week after accusing her of faking injuries as an excuse for possible defeats, said: "Steffi is one of the all-time great players."

"As for the future, Steffi seems very close to my record but she's still very far. She's within reach but she's still got a long way to go."

"I always thought that if anyone could do it then Steffi could because she started so early. She's in her prime physically, although she's battling her body all the time. But she's winning the battle."

"At 25, it's easier to do that than at 30 or 35. It also depends on whether there are any players that can threaten her."

"Right now, Monica Seles is not up to the challenge and the young ones haven't spanned out yet."

Navratilova blamed the media for inflaming the situation after she made her controversial injury remarks.

"She always has something happening with her body and I think it's a good distraction," explained Navratilova.

"I don't think it's her. She doesn't want to talk about it but the press keep bringing it up and exaggerate it to an unbelievable extent."

"She pinches her knee and you read that Graf is questionable for Wimbledon. They just completely jump the gun. I think the press should be held accountable for what they write."

Graf was clearly unwell with serious sinus problems the last weekend of the tournament but when asked how she was feeling, said:

"Everything's fine. After Martina's comments about me I'm not saying anything."

In the event, Graf needed no excuses. She charged to the title with a straight-sets win in the final over Spain's Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

History hangs heavy as baseball's best gather today for All-Star game

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Injured absentees and memories of 1993 controversies loom large here where Major League baseball's best players have gathered for Tuesday's annual mid-season All-Star game.

Up to four players voted into starting spots by fans will not take the field because of injuries when top players from the National and American Leagues meet.

Absent for the NL are San Francisco third baseman Matt Williams with a sore elbow and six-time batting champion Tony Gwynn, a San Diego outfielder, with a torn tendon. Williams missed last year's game with a broken foot.

Missing from the AL squad is Seattle outfielder Ken Griffey, with Baltimore second baseman Roberto Alomar questionable with a sprained finger. Alomar's teammate Cal Ripken is the starting AL shortstop.

"My finger is feeling bet-

ter and my hope is to be able to play Tuesday because it's an honor to be on the team," the former Toronto starter said. Fans here are expected to cheer AL slugger Joe Carter, whose series-ending home run gave Toronto the 1993 World Series crown over Philadelphia. This will be Carter's first visit here since dashing the Phillies' hopes.

Also recalled this week was the 1993 All-Star game in nearby Baltimore when AL manager Cito Gaston refused to insert hometown reliever Mike Mussina in the final inning.

The game ended with fans booing Gaston for keeping them from seeing the hometown hero. Gaston this week called Mussina an obscene name for fanning the controversy.

AL manager, Mike Hargrove of Cleveland and NL manager, Bobby Cox of Atlanta, rivals in last year's World Series, also aroused some fans' wrath by stocking their team with young

their own players as reserves.

Cox has six Braves on the NL club, including four pitchers and starters fired McGriff and Chipper Jones, who opens in place of Williams. Hargrove has five Indians in the AL, including starters Carlos Baerga and Albert Belle.

The AL lineup is paced by run producing leader Frank Thomas of Chicago, who is hitting .351 and also among AL leaders in runs scored and hits. Leading the pitchers is 11-game winner Mike Appier of Kansas City.

NL batting leader Mike Piazza of Los Angeles and Colorado's Dante Bichette, who has batted in the most runs in the NL, provide power at the plate.

Atlanta's John Smoltz, whose 14-4 mark leaders in majors, paces the pitching talent that includes fellow Braves Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux plus relievers Mark Wohlers of the Braves and Todd Worrell of Los Angeles.

Dream Team III routs Brazil in exhibition

CLEVELAND (R) — Dream Team III bounced back from a lackluster debut to show their power against international competition with a 109-68 pounding of Brazil Sunday at Gund Arena.

Guard Mitch Richmond, scoreless in the U.S. Olympic basketball team's narrow win against a team of U.S. collegians Saturday, scored 21 points for the Dream Team, which opened a 20-point halftime lead and never let up against Oscar Schmidt and his mates.

The NBA superstars displayed too much size and quickness for the Brazilians. Scottie Pippen scored 13 points and four others had 10 apiece for Dream Team

III, which has three games left in its five-game exhibition tour.

"I was pleased with our defensive effort," Dream Team coach Lenny Wilkens said. "We were disappointed with our effort Saturday and that game was a blessing in disguise. We want to get guys into various spots and we are coming along a little better in hitting the open man."

The Dream Team looked rusty in a 96-90 victory on Saturday, trailing by 17 points at halftime and showing none of the pizzazz that has wowed international crowds for four years.

But it was a different story Sunday. Richmond scored 10

points in the first half as the United States raced to a 50-30 lead. The Americans shot 53 per cent (20-of-38) from the field and held Brazil to 32 per cent (9-of-28).

"They have more talent coming off the bench than we have in our starters," Brazil coach Raimundo Nonato de Azevedo said. "I was disappointed in our concentration. They looked like they got a little better after that Saturday game. It was just a challenge we weren't ready for."

In the second half, the laughter returned to the faces of the Dream Team. Pippen and Charles Barkley exchanged smiles after a fast-break basket and Penny Hardaway was seen dancing

in his seat on the bench.

Hardaway, Shaquille O'Neal, Reggie Miller and Grant Hill scored 10 points apiece for the Dream Team, which shot 59 per cent and held Brazil to 31 per cent. The 38-year-old Schmidt scored 21 points and Rogerio Kiazke added 12 for Brazil.

"I don't think anybody can beat them," Schmidt said. "Maybe in 20 years, somebody will come along. They are fantastic athletes and it was a pleasure to play against them."

"Maybe one team out of the NBA would make it more competitive, but I think it's a little bit unfair when the select team of the NBA comes along."

Nine years ago, Schmidt's performance against collegians in the Pan Am Games was one of the events that led to the selection of NBA players for the U.S. Olympic team. He is the all-time leading scorer in Olympic history.

The Dream Team will continue the tour against the Chinese Olympic team in Phoenix July 10, Australia in Salt Lake City on July 12 and Greece in Ioianopolis on July 14.

"We'll be much better three days from now than we were tonight," Barkley said.

World Cup qualifiers Argentina, Peru draw 0-0

LIMA (R) — Desperate defending earned Argentina a 0-0 draw against an unlucky Peru on Sunday in a soccer World Cup qualifying match after striker Abel Balbo was sent off in the 30th minute.

A hard-working Peruvian team, urged on by a capacity 45,000-strong crowd in Lima's national stadium, constantly pressed Argentina but could not convert its numerous chances into the single goal that would have decided the match.

Argentina, who played without their top-scorer Gabriel Batistuta, were resigned to defend from the moment Balbo's venomous lunge at Jose Carranza saw his early exit.

And with sole remaining forward Claudio Caniggia ineffective, the South American giants only achieved one shot at goal all game.

"This result is really unjust," said Peru's coach Juan Carlos Oblitas. "Only one team tried to play."

Caniggia — himself cautioned for elbowing — blamed his team's lackluster display on the Balbo sending-off.

Against a 10-man side, Peru found space down both flanks to create good oppor-

tunities but a lack of precision in front of goal meant they wasted a slew of chances.

They came closest to scoring in the 66th minute when Roberto Palacios — put through by a flicked header from Flavio Maestri — flashed a low drive against the post.

Maestri caused persistent problems for an experienced Argentine defence and it was his diving header that brought the best out of goalkeeper German Burgos with a reflex save in the 60th minute. And when, in the last minute, after a goal-mouth scramble captain Juan Reynoso struck a shot against Burgos, it seemed Peru were destined to fulfill their familiar role as also-rans in the World Cup qualifying campaign.

But while the Peruvians now have two points from three matches, Argentina is also struggling after so far winning only once against Bolivia.

Yet, if the Argentines continue to display such a knack to irritate both the opposition and referee with their constant off-the-ball fouls and penance, FIFA, with its penchant for "fair play," will not miss the three-time world champions in the finals in France in 1998.



Argentine soccer player Claudio Caniggia (right) duels for the ball with Peruvian player "Julinho" de Andrade during a World Cup qualifier match for France, 1998, July 7 in Lima (Reuters photo)

Valderrama scores as Colombia beat Uruguay; Bolivia hammer Venezuela 6-1

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (R) — First half goals by striker Faustino Asprilla and veteran Carlos Valderrama helped Colombia to a 3-1 win over Uruguay on Sunday.

The victory put Colombia top of the South American World Cup qualifying group.

Antony de Avila sealed Colombia's win with a 77th minute goal after Gabriel Cedres had pulled Uruguay back into the game with a goal early in the second half. Ruben Pereyra of Uruguay and Leonel Alvarez of Colombia were sent off near the end.

The result was a crushing blow for two-time world champions Uruguay who seem to be in a state of perpetual decline.

Uruguay failed to qualify for the 1994 World Cup, losing out to Bolivia, and Sunday's loss followed a shock 2-0 defeat at home to Paraguay last month.

They are now seventh in the nine team group, with only the top four qualifying for the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

Unbeaten Colombia, however, are in a healthy position at the top of the table, despite relying heavily on the team which performed disastrously at the 1994 World Cup.

Asprilla put Colombia ahead in the 10th minute, eluding a defender and goalkeeper Claudio Ariza after being set up by Victor Aristizal.

Asprilla then set up the second 13 minutes later

which was converted by a Valderrama header.

Colombia let up and Cedres beat their defence to score for Uruguay from a free kick in the 55th minute.

Colombia's veterans were sagging but Antony de Avila, another stalwart who came on as a substitute, settled the match with a shot from outside the penalty area.

Bolivia win at altitude

In La Paz, Bolivia celebrated FIFA's decision to allow them to play World Cup qualifying matches at altitude in La Paz by thrashing Venezuela 6-1 in their first home game since getting the go-ahead.

Although FIFA stipulated that clubs must release players 10 days in advance for national teams playing in La Paz, which lies 3,600 metres above sea level, Venezuela chose to fly in three hours before the start — considered the second best option.

The second was courtesy of a penalty converted by playmaker Marco Etcheverry four minutes before halftime as Bolivia hauled themselves back into contention for a place in the finals after April's 3-1 defeat to Argentina.

Wary Venezuela capitulated after halftime with Julio Baldovino, Milton Coimbra, Berthy Suarez and Roly Paniagua all getting on the scoresheet.

Venezuela's consolations were a 65th minute penalty by Edson Tortolero and the knowledge they done better than on their previous visit to La Paz when they lost 7-0.

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Opening lead: King of 0
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GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
JUDGMENT VINDICATED

Zhivago: "Perhaps we'll get in some bridge at New York's Regency Whist Club."

I held the South hand there in a recent rubber bridge game, partnered by Boris Korytsov. I did not think my hand quite good enough for a damaged bid, but showed my strength with two takeout doubles — since partner had not yet bid, neither double could be construed

as being for penalties. Boris judged beautifully that his three trumps and doubleton heart were worth at least one trick, and voluntarily bid game on a yarrowhole! The final contract was simply a matter of technique.

West led the king of diamonds — had that held, he would have been in a good position to decide on a

shift, if necessary. I ruffed, cashed the ace and king of hearts and ruffed a heart.

I returned to hand with the king of trumps and, when both defenders followed, the contract could be claimed. I ruffed my remaining heart and, whether or not a defender overruled, all East-West could get were one trump trick and two clubs.

Bridge is such an easy game when your partner trusts your bidding!

Regards,
Tannah

Sports

Tour de France

Ris' bravery

pays dividends

ENTREPRENEUR (AFP) — Tour de France winner Bernard Hinault was named as the most successful cyclist in the history of the race. Hinault won the Tour de France five times between 1970 and 1976. He was named as the most successful cyclist in the history of the race by a panel of experts.

The panel also named other successful cyclists, including Eddy Merckx, who won the Tour de France four times, and Greg LeMond, who won the Tour de France in 1986. The panel also named other successful cyclists, including Lance Armstrong, who won the Tour de France seven times, and Miguel Indurain, who won the Tour de France five times.

Braves crush

SANTA FE — Greg Maddux showed his love for the Braves when he pitched a perfect game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Monday night.

Maddux pitched a perfect game, allowing no hits, no runs, no errors, and no walks. He struck out 14 batters and threw 105 pitches. The Braves won the game 1-0.

"I needed a win today," Maddux said. "It's great to be a little momentum going into the break."

Braves starter Donnell (16-1) allowed four runs and four hits in three innings. The Braves lost for the first time in over 11 years.

The Eastern Division Braves enter the season with the best record in the National League at 61-41.

In Montreal, Rhee went eight strong against the Mets in a two-run homer in the top of the fourth inning.

Heavenly New York City of a four-game set. Jeter (15-5) allowed two runs, eight hits and no walks with eight strikeouts.

Heavenly Todd Hundt (13-2) allowed two runs, eight hits and no walks with eight strikeouts.

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Sports

Tour de France Riis' bravery pays dividends

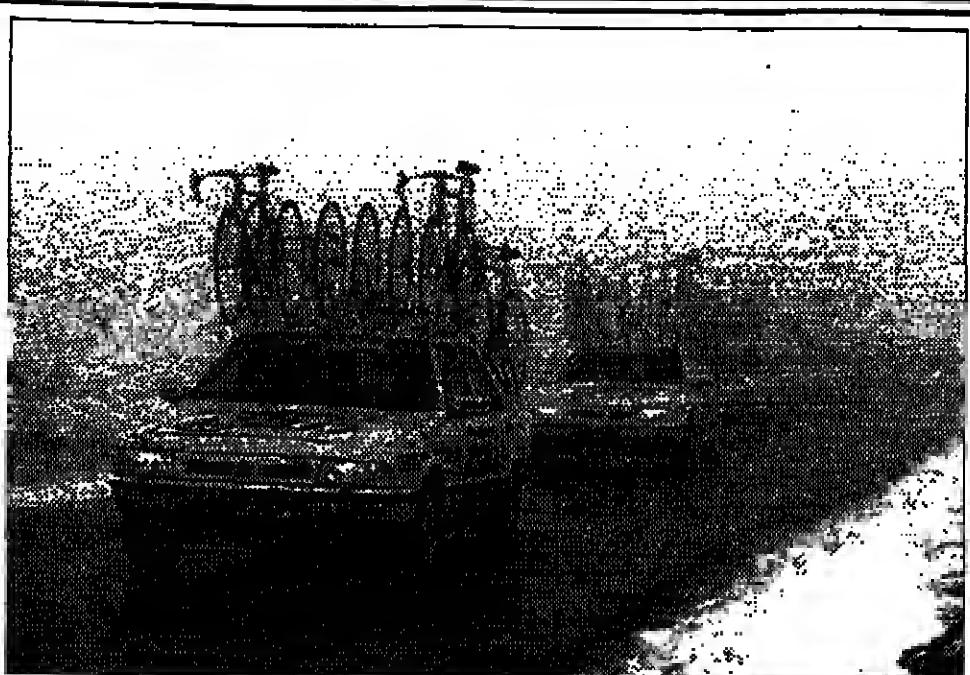
SESTRIERES, Italy (AFP) — Bjorne Riis' bravery was rewarded by a win in the shortened 46km ninth stage of the Tour de France from Monnetier-Les-Bains to Sestrieres Monday.

The Dane also took the overall leader's yellow jersey — putting him 40 seconds in front of former Tour leader Yevgeny Berzin and 53 seconds ahead of Switzerland's Tony Rominger.

It is the second time that the 32-year-old has claimed the yellow jersey — he wore it in the 1995 Tour, where he ultimately finished third.

Riis, enjoying his third ever Tour stage victory after Chalons Sur Marne in 1993 and Albi in 1994, attacked on the first climb to Montgenevre, and although he was reeled in by Berzin, a former teammate, and Abraham Olano, the Spanish world road race champion, he escaped again and was never to be caught.

"It's a magnificent day for me and the team. I was a little sad that we could not



Team cars and racers of the Tour de France climb in the fog and snow the Iseran mountain pass July 8. The first part of the 9th stage of the race Val d'Iserre to Sestrieres was to be cancelled due to bad weather (Reuters photo)

climb the first two mountains but when I drove over them I was happy that the right decision had been taken," Riis said.

"I decided to attack from the start and it was a case of now or never," he added. Asked whether he could go on and win in Paris, Riis was cagey.

"It's two weeks to the finish and there are a lot of good riders in with a chance but with my team doing so well I could do it," the Danish national champion said.

Berzin had looked in charge of the pursuing group, but when young Austrian climber Peter Luttenberger launched a

counter-attack he was left at the back. Berzin was then left trailing as he was bereft of any teammates — a problem which may cost him the tour.

He lost his two best teammates in the first week when last year's fifth-place getter Ivan Gotti and fellow Italian Stefano Zanini retired injured.

Only Francesco Frattini was capable of rejoining him for the final climb but was quickly dropped.

By contrast, four members of the Mapei team and three Telekom riders managed to stay in the lead group.

Berzin's problems were accentuated by the resur-

gence of five-time winner Miguel Indurain who took the lead in chasing down Riis and Saturday's stage winner Luc Leblanc — probably more to make up time on Berzin's lead over him than to try and win the stage.

Indurain now lies eighth, four minutes and 38 seconds behind Riis. His dream may not be over quite yet.

Earlier heavy snow ruled out the climb to the Col de l'Iseran, the highest point of the race at 2,770m, and later the climb to the Col du Galibier was also cancelled because of 100 km per hour winds.

COUNTDOWN TO ATLANTA

Iran's Olympians angered by visa delays

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian Olympic committee official criticised the Dutch embassy Monday for delays in issuing visas for their athletes bound for the Atlanta Games.

The unnamed official, quoted by news agency IRNA, said the Dutch embassy "had still not replied to requests for entry visas to the U.S."

Eighteen Iranian athletes, including their first ever female competitor, will be competing in Greco-Roman wrestling, boxing, swimming, shooting, weightlifting and athletics.

Iran and the U.S. have had no diplomatic relations since 1980, meaning the Iranians had to go to another country to collect their visas.

Olympics set to benefit from Wimbledon upsets

LONDON (R) — The "strangest" Wimbledon in living memory has given an unexpected boost to this month's Olympic tennis tournament in Atlanta, even without newly-crowned men's champion Richard Krajicek.

The likes of Pete Sampras, Andre Agassi and Monica Seles had already pledged to compete at the Games, but their performances at the All England Club have suddenly raised the event's profile with the U.S. Open just over the horizon.

Four of the top seven men in the rankings — Sampras, Agassi, Goran Ivanisevic and Yevgeny Kafelnikov — will be on duty in Atlanta, hoping to atone for personal disappointments which played a part in Krajicek becoming only the second unseeded singles champion in Wimbledon history.

The Dutchman, whose straight sets victory over MaliVai Washington elevated him back into the world's top 10, was not included in his country's three-man team but Graf heads an impressive women's field.

All top 10 women have indicated they will be in action, doing their best to stop the remarkable German who already has an Olympic gold medal to her credit from Seoul in 1988.

Naming the two Olympic tennis champions from Barcelona four years ago has provided a good quiz question ever since — the unlikely answers are Marc Rosset and Jennifer Capriati — but Atlanta could be very different.

Sampras needs to prove that his appetite for tennis has not been dulled by the loss of his coach Tim Gullikson, while Agassi has now had a fortnight to

reflect on the dangers of not preparing thoroughly for major tournaments.

Seles's fitness remains an area of uncertainty, and the entire women's game is still struggling to convince outsiders there is more strength in depth than has recently been the case.

Grass is not the best surface on which to measure Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's short-term title chances, but Mary Pierce, another Atlanta entrant, is among those for whom success looks further away than it did a year ago.

Wimbledon certainly raised more questions than it answered. If Graf's 20th grand slam title merely confirmed her as the outstanding player of her generation, Krajicek's success was less clear-cut.

The most likely explanation is that, at 24, the men's game has a new champion ready to challenge the elite on a regular basis, demonstrating there is no such thing as a fluke Wimbledon winner.

The alternative view is that Krajicek was a fortunate man in a non-vintage tournament plagued by injuries and wet weather which tested the patience of everyone involved.

Few fans would have suspected before the championships that singer Cliff Richard would turn in a better performance on centre court than Agassi managed.

But the Las Vegas has always had an eye for the big stage and could be the man to watch when the Olympic merry-go-round starts.

Despite the evidence of Wimbledon, normal service may soon be resumed.

Braves crush Astros, Rockies beat Dodgers

ATLANTA (R) — Greg Maddux showed his love for home sweet home again Sunday and Fred McGriff homered and drove in three runs to lead the Atlanta Braves to a 9-1 win over the Houston Astros.

Maddux (9-6), one of four Atlanta pitchers going to Tuesday's All-Star game, allowed one run and seven hits in six innings as he improved to 17-6 lifetime against Houston.

Home field again proved big advantage for Maddux, who is 8-1 with a 2.25 era at Fulton County Stadium this season. In his last six home starts, he is 5-0 with a 0.97 era.

"We needed a win today," Maddux said. "It's great to get a little momentum going into the break."

Houston starter Donne Wall (6-1) allowed four runs and four hits in three innings. The Astros lost for the first time in wall's 11 starts this year.

The Eastern Division-leading Braves enter the break with the best record in the National League at 54-33.

In Montreal, Rheal Cormier went eight strong innings and Darin Fletcher's two-run homer in the sixth put the Montreal Expos ahead for good in a 4-3 victory over the Mets that averted a New York sweep of a four-game set.

Cormier (5-5) allowed three runs, eight hits and no walks with eight strikeouts. He started the ninth and surrendered Todd Hundley's 23rd homer before giving way to Mel Rojas, who retired all three batters he faced for his 12th save.

"I was playing like it was a must-win game for myself. I really wanted to win the game and thank

goodness we did," Fletcher said.

"If we would have gotten swept here by the Mets, that would have been like putting a cloud over your head."

Montreal snapped a four-game skid while New York had a four-game win streak halted.

In Philadelphia, Charles Johnson's . . . RBI . . . double sparked a three-run 10th inning and the Florida Marlins made Cookie Rojas' managerial debut a successful one by rallying for a 7-4 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Rojas, who spent seven of his 16-year playing career with Philadelphia, was named interim manager after the Marlins fired Rene Lachemann, the only skip-

per in team history. Florida broke its seven-game losing streak and beads into the All-Star break with a 40-47 record.

Pinch-hitter Andre Dawson's RBI single in the eighth sent the game into extra innings. Terry Mathews (2-3) got the win.

In Los Angeles, Kevin Ritz combined with two relievers to a five-hitter and all-star Eric Young had three hits, two RBI and scored a run as the Colorado Rockies averted a four-game sweep with a 3-0 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In San Diego, Ken Caminiti and Rickey Henderson each homered and drove in three runs and Fernando Valenzuela gave up three runs over six innings

to lead the padres to their fifth straight win, 10-3 over the San Francisco Giants.

In Chicago, Terry Shumpert, who struck out with the bases loaded in the ninth inning, singled with one out in the bottom of the 13th to lift the Chicago Cubs to a 7-6 victory over the Cincinnati Reds.

Mark Grace led off by drawing a walk and moved to second on a wild pitch by Johnny Ruffin (1-3). Sammy Sosa struck out and Luis Gonzalez was intentionally walked before Shumpert lined a 1-2 pitch off the base of the left-field wall.

In Pittsburgh, Charlie Hayes' bases-loaded triple highlighted a five-run fifth inning that lifted the Pittsburgh Pirates to an 8-2 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals, who had their five-game winning streak snapped.

Officials pragmatic as Afghan squad gears up

KABUL (AFP) — War-torn Afghanistan is seeding a team to the Olympic Games for only the third time in its history, but officials here are not banking on the squad taking home any medals.

"Psychologically and economically our athletes are not in a good position," Mohammad Awwar Jigdalek, the president of the Afghan National Olympic Committee, told AFP.

"The fighting around the country, especially near Kabul, and years of economic hardship brought by the civil war make proper training very dangerous and potentially catastrophic — as was proved recently when rockets landed in the place where athletes were working out," he said.

"We cannot expect our athletes to perform exceptionally against well-

trained and rested teams from around the world when come from hardship conditions like we are experiencing here."

The national Olympic wrestling coach, Abdul Rashed Rahimi, agreed, saying his squad was trying hard but was faced with a range of daunting obstacles when it comes to excelling in Atlanta.

"We cannot hope to win gold in such a large event. Rich and peaceful countries with proper training facilities must win on the day," he said. "What others can accomplish in a year takes us 10 years."

"But our participation in the games as a war-stricken country will be difficult enough to achieve and will be a matter of pride for us no matter what the outcome is."

"We want the world to know that we are true sportsmen and that we are keen to compete despite the problems we face. Our athletes will surely be the bravest at the Games as they have the worst condi-

tions to train but will still compete under the same rules."

Kabul is sending a 15-strong team to the Atlanta Games to compete in wrestling, boxing, athletics, table tennis and judo events.

Many of the athletes are Afghans living abroad — including the six-man table tennis squad which trained in the United States. One of four wrestlers is in Canada, while another is based in Britain.

It will be only the third time in the history of the 100-year-old Games that Afghanistan has taken part. But putting a team together is no mean feat for a country which has been almost constantly at war for the past 16 years, officials said.

The main problems are finding sufficient funding to train, transport and lodge the squad and also the lack of adequately prepared, experienced and uninjured athletes, Jigdalek said.

"We simply don't have the funds we need to give

our athletes the training they need," he said.

"Our athletes get almost nothing to help their preparations, which means it is difficult to attract good sportsmen. Even if we do, we are very short of equipment and specialized coaching techniques."

Despite the financial and practical problems faced by the team, Afghanistan sports officials are hoping for at least respectable results from top athletes.

The stars of the Afghan team are likely to be 71kg middleweight boxer Jawid Aman, 23, who trained in India, and wrestler Nasir Ahmad, who lives in Canada and who won gold for his adopted country in the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

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